STARS STRIPES.

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East-leading Heat worn down by Suns



Bush stands by DOD policy keeping women from combat

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005

Inspectors end search for WMD, return to States

Proof of Saddam's arsenal never found; final report expected soon



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le ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Missing intern: Gary Condit denied in a sworn deposition that he had a romantic affair with slain intern Chandra Levy, insisting "we were friends," but offering few details of their relationship.

The former California congressman was questioned in September as part of an \$11 million lawsuit he filed in 2002 against Dominick Dunne, a special correspondent to

Vanity Fair. Condit claims that Dunne's statements led millions of people to believe Condit was criminally involved in Levy's death.

death.

Details of the deposition were reported Tuesday on NBC's "Today Show."

When asked to describe his relationship with Levy, Condit said, "We were friends." Continue of the Continue of th

Condit

Levy, a 24-year-old U.S. Bureau of Prisons employee, disappeared in 2001; her remains were discovered in a Washington, D.C., park in May 2002.

Illegal immigrants deaths: The attorney for the truck driver accused in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants contends the defendant's fair-trial rights are more important than guarding the secrecy of the process used by prosecutors to decide to ask for a

Craig Washington, the attorney for Tyrone Williams, made the argument Tuesday in a 49-page answer to prosecutors who want an appeals court to stop a federal judge from giving a jury information that could make a death penalty unlikely.

Washington maintains that the government wants Williams — a Jamaican immigrant from Schenectady, N.Y. — sentenced to death because he is black.

Williams, 33, is one of 14 people accused of being part of a human-smuggling ring indicted last year in the deaths of the illegal immigrants during a smuggling attempt.

South Carolina train derailment: The government told railroads on Tuesday they should require their crews to report and document changes to manual switches like the

one suspected of causing the derailment of a train carrying chlorine gas.

A Norfolk Southern train slammed into an-

A Norfolk Southern train slammed into another train parked on a side track in Graniteville, S.C., on Thursday, rupturing a tank and releasing a cloud of gas. The deadliest train wreck involving hazardous material in early three decades, it killed nine people, injured 234 others and forced the evacuation of 5,400 local residents.

tion of 5,400 focal residents.

Though they haven't finished their probe, National Transportation Safety Board investigators are focusing on whether the crew of the parked train failed to flip a switch to keep other trains on the main track hours before the wreck.

Louisiana serial murders: Prosecutors have decided against taking twice-convicted killer Derrick Todd Lee to trial for the murder of a Lafayette woman, Trineisha

Dene Colomb, 23.
Authorities say DNA evidence links Lee
to the serial killings of Colomb and six other
women from 1998 to 2003. In October, a
jury in Baton Rouge convicted Lee of
first-degree murder in the slaying of Charfirst-degree murder in the slaying of Charpenalty. He earlier was convicted of second-degree murder for the slaying of Geralyn DeSoto in West Baton Rouge Parish and
was sentenced to life in prison.

Prosecutors said that, in the event that Lee's death penalty conviction for the Pace murder is overturned, they will reconsider trying him.

War against terrorism

Australian terror suspect's release: The opposition Labor Party asked the government on Wednesday to explain if the release of an Australian terror suspect held for three years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was linked to his claims he was tortured while under U.S. supervision in Egypt.

The suspect, who the United States believes had foreknowledge of the Sept. 11 al-Qaida attacks, won't be allowed to leave Australia after being repatriated.

The government announced Tuesday that Sydney resident Mamdouh Habib, who was born in Egypt, will be released without charge from Guantanamo Bay.

Last week, one of Habib's court affidavits was made public in which he said that after he was arrested in Pakistan he was transferred to Egypt, where he was tortured with beatings and electric shocks and was nearly drowned.

World

Mubarak runs for fifth term: Egypt's ruling party has announced it will nominate its current leader, President Hosni Mubarak, 76, for a fifth presidential term. While Mubarak's nomination was never

in doubt, the party will make it official in parliament in May, the undersecretary of the National Democratic Party was quoted as saying Wednesday by local media.

The presidential referendum will be held in the second half of September.

Egyptians vote for a sole presidential candidate in a public "yes" or "no" referendum. That candidate is chosen by parliament, which is dominated by the ruling party.

Alghan drug-smuggler annesty. President Hamid Karzai said an amnesty for former drug smugglers was "not a bad idea" if it could help eliminate Afghanistan's booming narcotics industry, but he suggested Wednesday it was far from becoming government policy.

Under pressure from the United States

Under pressure from the United States and Europe, Karzai has called for a "holy war" against Afghanistan's drug business, the world's largest, and made it a priority for the five-year term he won in landmark Sentember elections.

Afghan poppy cultivation jumped an estimated two-thirds last year and supplied 87 percent of the world's opium, the raw material for most of the heroin sold to young addicts in areas such as Western Europe and Russia.

Croatian war crimes suspect: Croatia's fugitive war crimes suspect, Gen. Ante Gotovina, is ready to surrender "immediately" if he is granted a trial in Croatia instead of before the U.N. court that charged him in mid-2001, his attorney said.

Gotovina "would immediately surrender to Croatian authorities for trial if his case were transferred to Croatia," his Chicago-based attorney, Luka Misetic, said. The letter was sent to the heads of the Eu-

ropean Union, which decided to start membership talks with Croatia on March 17, but only if the country arrests and extradites Gotovina, one of the most wanted suspects of the U.N. court in The Hague, Netherlands. Gotovina's offer was immediately reject-

ed by the U.N. court.

Naples gang warfare: Police broke up a meeting of suspected mobsters from a Naples gang involved in a vicious internal war, arresting six men, authorities said Wednesday

day.

Police in Naples said they blocked the men as they tried to escape from a room in a neighborhood in northern Naples where they had been meeting late Tuesday.

The men are thought to be tied to the Di Lauro clan, a part of Naples' Camorra crime syndicate that has been involved in a bloody battle with a break off group in recent months, resulting in several brutal killings. More than 130 people were killed in the Naples region last year, most of them in mob violence.

Pakistan assassination suspect: An air force staffer who allegedly played a key role in a plot to assassinate Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf has escaped from jail and efforts are under way to arrest him, a snokesman said Wednesday.

Mushtaq Almed, a low-ranking Pakistani air force staff member, was captured months after al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants tried to blow up Musharraf's motorcade on Dec. 14, 2003, in Rawalpindi, a city near the capital. Islamabad.

On Wednesday, air force spokesman Air Commodore Sarfraz Ahmad said the jailbreak occurred last month, but declined to give further details about it.

Photos and stories from wire reports



Fired Georgia law enforcers: Clayton County, Ga., Shoriff Victor Hill — whose firing of 27 of his 345 employees, most of them deputies and officers, on his first day in office was overturned by a judge — agreed Tuesday to reinstate their pay and benefits. But he insisted they would not necessarily get their jobs back. Hill defended his actions as legal, but restructed to say exactly why the employees were fired. The firings angreed members of the department and raised suspicions that they were racially motivated. Hill is black. The fired employees included four of the highest-ranking officers, all of them white.

Fruitless WMD search comes to an end

WASHINGTON - The search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has quietly concluded without any evidence of the banned weapons that President Bush cited as justification for going to war, the White House said Wednesday

The Iraq Survey Group, made up of some 1,200 military and intelligence specialists and support staff, spent nearly two years searching military installations, factories and laboratories whose equipment and products might be converted quickly to making weapons.

White House press secretary Scott Mc. Clellan said there no longer is an active search for weapons. "There may be a couple, a few people, that are focused on that"

Inspectors with Iraq Survey Group return home after nearly 2 years chasing weapons

but that it has largely concluded, he said. "If they have any reports of [weapons of mass destruction], obviously they'll contin-ue to follow up on those reports." McClellan said. "A lot of their mission is focused elsewhere now.

Chief U.S. weapons hunter Charles Duelfer is to deliver his final report on the search next month

"It's not going to fundamentally alter the findings of his earlier report," McClellan said, referring to preliminary findings from last September. Duelfer reported

then that Saddam Hussein not only had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991, but that he had no capability of making any either. Bush unapologetically defended his decision to invade

Duelfer is expected to report on the removal of enriched uranium, a key ingredient in nuclear weapons production, and that the United States was offering jobs to Iraqis engaged in weapons programs, another administration official said on condition of anonymity.

Bush has appointed a panel to invest gate why the intelligence about Iraq's weapons was wrong.

The Washington Post reported that Duelfer is home, and analysts are back at Langley, Va.

In interviews, officials who served with the Iraq Survey Group said the violence in Iraq, coupled with a lack of new information, led them to fold up the effort shortly before Christmas.

The CIA declined to authorize any official involved in the weapons search to speak on the record for the Post's story. The intelligence official offered an authoritative account of the status of the hunt on the condition of anonymity. The agency did confirm that Duelfer is wrapping up his work and will not be replaced in Baghdad.

Insurgents attacks up in Mosul

U.S. detains suspects in slaying of governor

BY JASON KEYSER The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Insurgents launched a string of attacks in the northern city of Mosul as part of their escalating campaign of violence before the Jan. 30 elections, killing two Iraqi National Guardsmen and wounding two others in a car bombing Wednesday, a day after another ambush killed three Iraqis, the U.S. military said

A U.S. servicemember assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in the volatile western Anbar province. the military said Wednesday. The unit is based at Camp Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, U.S. forces detained six suspects in the slaying of the provincial governor of the area around the Iraqi capital, the military said Wednesday. Troops detained the suspects in an early-morning raid on a house in Baghdad's northern Hurriyah neighborhood Tuesday.

Gunmen opened fire on Ali al-Haidari's three-vehicle convoy Jan. 4 in the neighborhood, killing the governor and six bodyguards

Two of those detained were directly in-



U.S. Army armored vehicles and troops patrol in Mosul on Wednesday. Insurgents ambu convoy of American and Iraqi forces Tuesday, detonating a roadside bomb and firing from a mosque in an attack that killed three Iraqi National Guardsmen, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

volved in the slaying, said Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond, assistant commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, which controls Baghdad

Iraq's insurgents repeatedly have targeted government officials around the country, say ing they are allies of the U.S.-led coalition.

On Tuesday, insurgents in Mosul hit a convoy of American and Iraqi forces by detonating a roadside bomb and firing from a mosque, killing three National Guardsmen.

The troops were bringing heaters and other supplies to a school when they were attacked, a military statement said. The convoy was hit first with a roadside bomb and then sprayed with gunfire from a nearby mosque. No Americans were reported hurt

In a separate clash, insurgents fired on a U.S. patrol in southern Mosul, sparking a bat-

tle that killed one attacker and injured anoth-In the city of Bagoubah, northeast of Bagh-

dad, gunmen fatally shot Jawad Ibrahim, an assistant to the mayor, as he was fixing his car in an industrial neighborhood, police said. A top U.S. lawmaker visiting the Afghan

capital Wednesday told reporters he hoped Iraq's election would mirror the recent vote in anistan in helping to stop militants and smooth the road to democracy.

"Our hope is that we will see something

very similar ... [which will] squelch, or over come and overpower insurgencies, challenges to democracy, in a way that will far surpass people's anticipations," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

The military had no further details about the circumstances of the American's soldier's death Tuesday.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Tuesday, at least 1,356 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,068 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,218 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 959 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's num-

Since the start of U.S. military operations in Iraq, 10,372 servicemembers have been wounded in hostile action, according to a Defense Department tally released Tuesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Depart-

■ Army Staff Sgt. William F. Manuel, 34, Kinder, La., and Army Sgt. Robert W. Sweeney III, 22, Pineville, La.; killed Monday when an explosive hit their vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade, Lake Charles,

NATO organizing arms shipment for Iraq military

BY PAUL AMES

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium - NATO is organizing the shipment to Iraq of thousands of AK-47 assault rifles, dozens of Soviet-designed tanks and other weapons as part of the alliance's program to help train and equip the Iraqi military, officials said Wednesday.

Romania has offered 6,000 AK-47s, along with 500 machine guns, 300 sniper rifles and 100 rocket-propelled grenade launch-

ers; Estonia, 2,400 AK-47s, and Denmark, 104 pistols, alliance officials said

NATO is also arranging transport of 77 T-72 tanks from Hungary to Iraq, said the officials, speaking on the alliance's customary condition of anonymity.

All arms and military hardware is being given as a donation.

The alliance agreed last year to help coordinate the supply of weapons to Iraq's fledgling armed forces.

nations which joined NATO last year - like Romania and Estonia

- have surpluses of Soviet-era equipment which military experts say is ideal for Iraqi military members, many of whom are familiar with such weapons from the days of Saddam Hussein.

Officials said about 100 NATO personnel currently were in Iraq preparing an expansion of the alliance's training mission there which was launched on a small scale in August.

month approved plans to expand the mission to about 300 early this year, but officials said many of those due to deploy still were undergoing preparation for the mis-

In Afghanistan, NATO is expected to announce next month that it is ready to expand its peacekeeping mission into the west of the country. The operation with about 8,000 troops currently is limited to Kabul, the capital, and a northern sector.

Borders closing in on foreign fighters

U.S. Marines, local forces finding success limiting routes into Iraq

By Joseph Giordono Stars and Stripes

AL ASAD, Iraq — U.S. military officials in Anbar province are reporting progress in one of their most difficult missions: securing Iraq's porous borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and turning over complete responsibility for the ioh to Iraqi forces.

Over the last three months, Marines under the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit have built — or rebuilt — more than two dozen border forts and recruited more than 1,000 specially trained Iraqi border security forces.

der security irreces. It is possible, Marine Corps officials say, to have the entire border security system in Iraqi hands by this year. If so, it would be a significant milestone in the U.S. military's struggle to train and equip Iraqi security forces as a means the office of the office o

The effort's centerpiece is a specialized Iraqi unit dubbed the Desert Wolves, which U.S. officials say will be the heart of a revitalized and reconstituted Iraqi Department of Border Enforcement.

"Bringing people into sections of the border where they're not from is one of the smartest things we've done," said Maj. Bart Logue, a Marine Corps foreign area officer attached to the Okinawa-based 31st MEII

"It's very important that they not be tied to the sheiks of that area, and they don't have to follow the cultural rules," he said in a reference to kickbacks, bribes and other forms of petty corruption and influence that U.S. officials say were rampant in the former regime and its security forces.

Several times a week, Logue, members of the Navy's Seabees and the Army Corps of Engineers load into 31st MEU helicopters and check on the forts. They always are accompanied by a heavily armed security element.

ly armed security element.
On Tuesday, Marines from Company C, 1st Battalion, 7th Marines
— armed with everything from
light machine guns to rocket
launchers — piled into two helicop-

ters at Al Asad and headed out for an inspection of forts along the Iraqi-Saudi border.

About halfway to their destination, hough, fierce sandstorms forced them to turn back. The conditions made a landing too dangerous to attempt, so the inspection was postponed. On days when they do reach the forts, the Marinesclear and secure the areas, some times running into booby traps or discovering the forts — which resemble stone castles with turrets — vandalized or damaged.

The S32 million project is being undertaken through local contractors and labor, said Logue, a 33-year-old from Monterey, Calif, and a military-trained Arabic linguist. The forts are meant to add a physical presence to Iraq's borders, which long have been sand berms in open stretches of desert. Small teams from the U.S. De-

Small teams from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security also are working with Iraqi border forces, training them in customs, immigration and trade. Last month, Logue said, leaders of the Desert Wolves met with Syrian border officials for the first time in years to work on coordinating cross-border issues.

"That happened within the first 30 days of the program. I'm truly impressed," Logue said. "These are the guys who are going to be making a difference for their coun-

The Syrian border has been the most difficult to secure, with U.S. officials saying hundreds of foreign fighters have been allowed to enter Iraq through that route. However, senior U.S. diplomats have said the problem is being curbed to some extent.

"We have seen a lot of improvement regarding foreign fighters who were using Syria to enter Iraq, and this is a good thing," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told reporters last week in Damascus after meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

"But I also made the point that former regime elements of the Iraqi regime sometimes cross back and forth on the border, and



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Ma

Above: A Marine from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit provides security during a check of one of the new border forts along the Iraqi frontier. Below: An Iraqi border guard smiles as he greets U.S. Marines from the 31st MEU who were inspecting border forts.

that it's very important to have that stopped," he said, according to a State Department transcript of his compensation.

According to the Pentagon, the U.S. government is holding some 325 foreign fighters in Iraq. Nearly half of those were captured in the past two months, officials said, many during the November assault on Falluiah.

And though the aim of the border program is to stop the illegal traffic, recruiting and training a successful border force are crucial pieces of the larger security picture, military officials said.

"It's important the security forces know this is a combined effort. It's critical they know that when things are happening, we're there to support them," said Logue, who also serves as the 31st MEU's Iraqi Security Forces coordinator.

"This is not because the 31st MEU happened to find a good bunch of Iraqis. The key is they are training alongside us. No one asks these guys to do anything the Marines are not willing to do," Logue said.

"We've found something here that's going to take us home."

E-mail Joseph Glordono at: glordono@pstripes.osd.mil



SEAL defends Abu Ghraib abuse suspect

SAN DIEGO — Brushing away tears, an enlisted Navy SEAL who served in Iraq with a lieutenant accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners defended the officer as a "hero" and a man of compassion. "Sir, I know what kind of man he is, and it breaks my heart that

something might be taken out of context by people who weren't there," the SEAL, a hospital corpsman, testified Tuesday at a military court hearing at Naval Base San Diego.

"He's a good man," he said, wiping away tears. "He's a hero."

The sa good man, he said, wiping away cars. He's a hero. The testimony was part of an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a civilian grand jury, for the lieutenant, who is accused of assault, maltreatment and conduct unbecoming an officer for his handling of detainees.

Court-martial for Iraq war souvenirs case

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Florida — A court-martial was ordered Tuesday for an Air Force officer charged with illegally shipping AK-47 assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other souvenirs from Iraq to this Florida Panhandle base.

Maj. Gregory McMillion is scheduled for trial April 5. If convicted on all charges, he could receive a penalty ranging from no punishment to a discharge and imprisonment.

to a discharge and imprisonment.

He faces charges of disregarding orders against bringing home war booty, failing to report and turn over captured or abandoned property, making false statements and conduct unbecoming an officer.

From The Associated Press

Bush: No women in combat

President stands by DOD policy limiting female troops

Stars and Stripes

President Bush made clear his position on women in ground combat Tuesday: No women in combat.

Despite extended tours of duties in Iraq for sol, the president told editors and reporters of The Washington Times in an Oval Office interview that he has no intention of sending women into ground combat, a mission for which they are banned under Pentagon policy.

"There's no change of policy as far as I'm concerned," Bush told the Times. "No women in combat. Having said that, let me explain, we've got to make sure we define combat properly: We've got women flying choppers and women flying fighters, which I'm perfectly content with."

The question came up in light of the Army's transforming its 10 active-combat divisions and re-exam-

ining women's roles. Instead of the normal three brigades per division, each division will have four or more "units of action." They are being designed to train and deploy as one modular unit, with combat and support units as one.

Therein lies the potential problem, the Times wrote. Pentagon policy not only bans women from direct combat brigades, such as infantry or armor, it also says they cannot join support units that collocate with those units.

Congress requires that any change in women-in-combat rules first be presented to lawmakers.

In 1994, after reports of women excelling during Operation Desert Storm, the Clinton administration lifted bans on women in combat aircraft and ships. But it retained the prohibition against women in ground combat units and collocation, the Times reported.



Above: Capt. Todd Schmidt, of Battery A, 1st Battalion, 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, started Operation Dreamseed Inc., as a way to help Afghan schoolchildren. But the idea has quickly turned into a full-fledged nongovernmental organization with benefactors from across the United States. Right: Two Afghan girls walk away with new backpacks given to them by American soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, through Operation Dreamseed. The bags were given out after an "I Choose Freedom" speech contest in December. All 2,500 children participating in the contest received a new backpack.



Planting the seeds of freedom

Army captain's idea blossoming into vast charity for Afghan children BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY

44If you have a

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that realize the

importance of

education, to me,

that's an

investment in the

future We

Americans need to

foster those seeds

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Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan ter's sermon, a dinner chat with mom and a series of thank-you notes have helped launch a humanitarian effort that stretches from the mud hovels of Afghanistan to the high-rises of America. It is the effort of a U.S. Army captain

who took a seed of an idea to assist Afghan schoolchildren and nurtured it into a full-fledged nongovernmental organiza-

In characteristic fashion, Capt. Todd Schmidt modestly attributes the growth of Operation Dreamseed Inc. to "the heartland heroes" back home. They range from a large New York City law firm and a Chi-cago philanthropist, to a Houston middle school and a Beverly Hills investment-consulting firm.

Another backer is Abdul Aziz, who emi-grated from Afghanistan to the United States in 1980, starting his new life as a dishwasher

"I couldn't believe it," Aziz said of Schmidt's efforts. Aziz, who is now a civil engineer, spoke by telephone from his home in Corona, Calif. "He's a wonderful person. I hope he succeeds, and I'll help him as much as I can

That help doesn't involve just the folks

back home.

Dozens of soldiers assisted Schmidt with Dreamseed's first large-scale effort last month. The "I Choose Freedom" speech contest in early December drew 2,500 Afghan students and thousands of parents By day's end, each child received a backpack stuffed with school supplies from donors in the United States.
"We had a soccer field filled with kids,"

Schmidt said of the event. "That was some-

The idea for Dreamseed began in Febru ary, when Schmidt returned to his boyhood home in Greenwood. Ind.

Schmidt and his wife, Joy, were visiting family before his deployment to Afghani-

stan. One night, while seated at his parents' dinner table, his mother, Wendy. asked him to look for ways she and her pupils at Maple Grove Elementary School co make a difference for Afghan children.

When he and other members of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii headed to Afghanistan in the spring, Schmidt began to survey the conditions of local schools in the Kandahar area.

"You can walk into just about any classroom and see that they don't have chalk-

boards," Schmidt said "They don't have desks or chairs. Most classrooms have dirt floors.

and there are no window panes and no doors. At about the same time, Schmidt and the other soldiers of his unit,

Battery A, 1st Battalion 62nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, began receiving care packages from anonymous people in the United States. The goodie boxes consisted of the normal fare, such as candy and hygiene items. Schmidt had request of his soldiers When you receive a care package, reply with a short thank-you note.

"He means the best in everything he does," said Spc. Christopher Cipponeri, a 21-year-old assigned to the battery.

That simple gesture made a huge impression.
"When we sent those thank-you notes," Schmidt said, "everything kind of blos-somed out of it."

The notes generated return letters, many asking the troops what else they

"We have everything you need, really, when you think about it." the 32-year-old

captain said, referring to the amenities on

Schmidt began thinking of the Afghan children, and their dire situation. His thoughts and observations were passed along in letters. That was all it took to set in motion Dreamseed, a term he borrowed from a minister back home.

One of the care packages his unit re-ceived was from Connie Fratainni, a partner in the New York City law firm of Shearman & Sterling, which boasts more than

lawyers worldwide. Letters evolved into e-mails and then to phone calls. Eventually, Fratainni and another partner. Cohen, offered to provide pro bono work to incorporate Dreamseed and to help it apply for tax-exempt status as a nonprofit organization.

Dreamseed was for-

mally incorporated on Nov. 12. By that time. donors large and small had stepped forward. The University of Nebraska, a leading authority on Afghanistan, and Denver University also are interested in furtheri Dreamseed's mission. furthering

Capt. Todd Schmidt That mission, Schmidt Founder. said, involves three phas-Operation Dreamseed Inc. es. The first is to provide

schoolchildren in southern Afghanistan with basic school supplies.

Next is the renovation of schools, which is not as simple as it may seem. In a land where only 5 million of the nation's 28 million people can read. Schmidt noted that some teachers have their work cut out for them. In some cases, they use rocks to scrawl lesson plans on the walls of their mud-brick classrooms.

These kids have nothing," said Cippon-

eri, a soldier who has played a major role in helping Schmidt. "All these children in helping Schmidt. "All these children have smiles on their faces and wear rags for clothes. When you help them, it opens a new part of you in your heart."

Ultimately, Schmidt would like to estab-

lish an exchange program between Afghan teachers and institutions in the United States. He said talks with the University of Nebraska and Denver University are in their infancy, but already the latter is inter ested in sending doctoral candidates to Afghanistan.

"We want to get the new generation to lean toward the Western ideology," said Aziz, who is expected to become a member of Dreamseed's board of directors. "The U.S. military isn't just there to give

[Afghans] freedom from terror," Aziz added, America wants "to educate the young people of Afghanistan. It's very im-

portant. It's very important."

What's important to Joy Schmidt is her husband's safe return. On the organization's Web site, she wrote a congratulatory note, but implored him "to stay focused" on his primary responsibility — being a sol-dier. Schmidt smiled as he recounted those

One concern that seems to have dissinate ed is who will carry on his work in Afghani-

Aziz plans to return to assist the Afghan government, and cash donations to Dream-seed should allow Schmidt to hire two full-time employees. In addition, an officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade from Vice-nza, Italy, the unit that will replace the 25th ID in the spring, has pledged to keep the initiative going

The good will of so many people back home "is humbling," Schmidt said. "There are so many great people across America. "If you have a generation of kids that re-

alize the importance of education, to me, that's an investment in the future," Schmidt added. "We Americans need to foster those seeds of hope."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at:

War stories straight from the soldier's mouth

Filmmaker to share experiences of battle by collecting troops' first-hand accounts

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripe:

WASHINGTON - Aaron Mighty wants to make a film about war, but he doesn't think actors and special effects will tell the

"We want to look at soldiers' whole lives going into war, facing war and coming home," the director said Monday. "So we started last November, on Veterans Day, collecting stories from people in the mili tary and their families. And the stories so far are phenomenal."

Mighty, an independent filmmaker from Florida, said the goal of his documentary "An American Soldier" is to help audiences appreciate the military experience by recording an intimate view of the heroism and tragedy inherent in war.

Mighty and three associates are also responsible for DearAmericanSoldiers.com. founded last year to collect holiday e-mails and online notes of encouragement for troops serving abroad.

Mighty said that campaign - which developed while he and friends researched for the movie - has given him ideas and encouragement, convincing him the movie will touch many viewers' lives

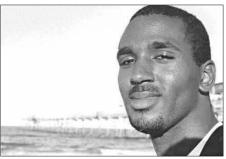
The group has collected about 250 stories, ranging from a Wisconsin paratrooper who served as an advance scout for D-Day to a Gulf War veteran concealing his postbattle health problems from friends and co-workers.

"We have one story of a guy serving in the Korean War whose unit adopted a young boy after his parents were killed in a battle," he said. "Eventually, when the unit moved they had to leave the child behind. and the boy ran after the trucks as they left crying

His goal is to collect more than 1,000 stories, select the most compelling, and begin filming this spring.

Mighty, 26, is a graduate student at Uni-versity of Central Florida with no formal film training. His only previous full-length film, "One Happy Movie," has been shown in limited release and features interviews with different people discussing what brings joy to their lives.

Mighty said he is meeting next month with possible financial backers for the project, which he expects will cost be-tween \$50,000 and \$100,000. But he thinks the emotional stories and the firsthand look at war will draw support, especially in



lent filmmaker Aaron Mighty is making "An American Soldier" to help audiences appreciate the military experience by having troops, veterans and families tell their stories.

"It may be hard to avoid the politics of war today," he said. "But that's not our goal.

"Mv cousin Charles is stationed over in Iraq. Growing up, we were close. When he was sent over last summer, it made it really personal for me. People should cele-

brate our American men and women serving every day of the year.

Troops and retired military personnel can submit their stories for consideration at: www.anamericansoldiermovie.com.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Black Hawks to get NASCAR-quality windshield coating

BY PAUL NOWELL The Associated Press

KANNAPOLIS, N.C. — A protective windshield coating that improves visibility for NASCAR drivers is getting a new application on the windshields of Army Black Hawk helicopters flying combat missions over Iraq.

The clear plastic film - used to keep flying debris from ruining the view for race drivers — was pioneered by tiny Pro-Tint Inc., a company with just 14 employees that came up with tear-away windshield film in the late 1990s. The multilayer product is now used by virtually all Nextel Cup teams.

Instead of replacing a scratched and pitted windshield, race teams merely peel off a layer of the protec-tive film to reveal a new, clear layer of film underneath.

Recently, Pro-Tint teamed up with United Protective Technologies, another small firm, to produce a thicker and more complex Mylar protective film for military he-Starting this month, the companies will start shipping

the coating, which is to be installed on hundreds of Black Hawks flying in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan. In normal use, Black Hawk windshields last about

two years. But the harsh conditions of the Middle East - where helicopters are pelted with gritty sand and other debris - have reduced the average durability to under a year, the military has told Pro-Tint.

"This will double the life of a Black Hawk's windshield," Fricker said of the technology, which resulted from a three-year development effort with United Protective Technologies.



Steve Fricker applies a protective windshield coating for a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter at Pro-Tints Inc. in Kannapolis, N.C., on Friday. Starting this month, the company will start shipping the coating, which is to be installed on hundreds of Black Hawks that are being flown on combat missions overseas in war zones like Iraq and Afghanistan.

NCO guilty of adultery

The acting first sergeant of a Vilseck, Germany-based unit serving in Iraq pleaded guilty Friday to charges of adultery and violating a lawful general order, according to a case summary prepared by the Task Force Danger staff judge advocate's office

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Durrant, 38, of Company A, 201st Forward Support Battalion, acknowledged having sex with a private first class under his command in his barracks at Forward Operating Base Warhorse in Baqouba, the summary said, Judge (Col.) Denise Lind, ordered him to serve five months in jail and reduced in rank to E-4.

The incident took place Nov. 16 in a room that Durrant shared with his company commander, who was fighting in-surgents in Fallujah at the time.

According to the summary, the soldier testified she felt Durrant — who is mar-ried and a 19-year Army veteran — "took advantage" of her and had come on to her several times

From staff reports

Safety alert in Kuwait doesn't faze Americans

The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY - A U.S. Embassy alert that at least one terrorist was driving around in a black car with the intent to attack Westerners - and a shootout the same day that left that suspect and two policemen dead — barely fazed Americans living in this small oil-rich state.

Many of the some 13,000 American civilians liv-

ing in this major Washington ally have seen such incidents before and some say it is still safer to live in Kuwait than in big American cities.

"Authorities pretty well have it under control. "Authorities pretty well have it under control," said Peter Menting, 60, a lawyer from New York City who has been working in Kuwait for 11 years. On Monday morning, the embassy warned in an urgent message on its Web site that one or more people moving about Kuwait in a black-colored sedan intended to randomly attack Westerners.

Later in the day, police clashed with the suspect, who was wanted by state security, while he re-turned the car to a rental shop in a Kuwait City suburb. He shot at police and escaped into a waiting car, whose occupants also took part in the shootout

The man, identified as Fawwaz Tlaiq al-Otaibi, was later arrested. He had been injured in the shootout and died in the hospital. The gunbattle, the first of its kind in a residential area, also left two policemen dead and two injured. Linda Steffen, 26, believed Monday's events

vere "a little out of the ordinary for Kuwait." She said she makes a point of looking around more carefully as she is driving, but that was the

only extra measure she was taking,
"I love Kuwait," said Steffen, of Salt Lake City.
A marketing manager for a shipping company,
she has been in Kuwait for eight months.
"I go to sleep at night without worrying about

Study eyes benefits of wired military family

Stare and Strings

Boston University is leading a study to plug the Great American Military Household into ... well, itself. And into school and

The university recently announced the Technologically Connected Home Project, paid for through grants from the Army and Nielsen Media Research. The three-year program will study 500 military families to ee whether using things like the Internet as a low-cost, long-distance telephone line catch on with families often separated.

"One of the realities of the military family is it's a family in transition, there's a move to and from a base," said John Henderson, director of the Boston University Institute for Leading in a Dynamic Economy. "There's a changing of careers and a changing of venues relative to a career. Military families are really families in motion."

A child who moves to a new school could connect with the old to smooth transition. A family at a remote base could access doctors via video. And using Voice over Internet Protocol voice communication, a soldier-parent serving far away could keep in touch without paying long-distance fees.

"We kind of think of the home as a nucleus of an atom, and the family members are spinning around it." Henderson said. "They're the electrons."

The idea would be to keep those elec-

Army hopes new technology creates more content, cohesive community

trons in touch, no matter how far from home they fly.

"Make life better for soldier families and vou can make better soldiers," said William Armbruster, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for privatization and partnerships, in a prepared

statement. "Army readiness is inextricably linked to the well-being of the whole family. .. When deployed, soldiers need to know that their families are safe, housed, and have access to medical care community services, and educational opportunities. If technology in the home can make that all possible then everyone wins and the odds of soldier retention are multiplied

Soldiers are both the subjects of the study and the end client. The

study will cost about \$1 million per year, with the Army paying for 25 percent of it and Nielsen picking up the bulk of the rest. Actus Lend Lease and the Picerne Real Eshomes. The study will begin with volunteers at Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Meade, Md though the program should expand to three other bases. There are no plans now to expand the study overseas, but Hender-

son said he couldn't rule it out. The program is part of the Ar-Residential Communities Initia tive, a push to rebuild 70.000 military homes in the next five years.

Harvard Medical School and the Army surgeon general are involved on the telemedicine side.

Nielsen believes the technology could have applications beyond the military.

"This is not making a new secret device or something, this is something the private sector can be very supportive of," said Robert Luff, chief tech-

nology officer at Nielsen Media Research.

One of the technologies Nielsen is excited

matically contact a distributor or some-But such an electric eye could spook ome, as the researchers are well aware The data that the home project collects will not go directly to the Army or companies,

or simply go out to eat.

maintenance purposes.

but to researchers who will analyze it. The analysis is what the military and companies finally receive. "We are the mechanism that ensures the privacy of the family," Henderson said. Boston University researchers are the only ones who have access to the data."

movement or temperature or virtually any-

or four nickels, and in that there's a battery

like a hearing aid battery and a chip," Luff

They're small and don't draw much at-

tention to themselves, which helps re-searchers not influence the behavior of

those being studied. They could help re-

searchers tell whether members of a fami-

ly eat dinner together or watch television

Other smart devices could be used for

"Examples would be RFID tags on appli-

ances," said Dennis O'Connor, a project

spokesman, referring to radio frequency

identification technologies. "If they need

service or maintenance, they would auto-

"Imagine something like a stack of three

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil

44 Army readiness is inextricably linked to the well-being of the whole family. ... If technology in the

home can make that

all possible, then

everuone wins.

William Armbruster Deputy assistant secretary of the Army for privatization

and partnerships

U.S., Russia near agreement to limit missile trafficking

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The United States and Russia are close to com pleting an agreement designed to limit trafficking in portable air-defense missiles, which some security experts fear terrorists could use against commercial airliners, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday.

At a joint news conference with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Ivanov provided few details but said the proposed accord re-

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shon

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tween the United States and Russia in constraining the unauthorized movement of these weapons around the world

"You know full well that terrorists of all hues and stripes" have sought to obtain them, he said.

Ivanov, speaking through an interpreter, said "an agreement on the exchange of information" on portable air-defense weapons would be signed by the two countries "pretty soon.

He said the agreement was put together quickly "because it was in the best interests of both states to maximally constrain" the movement of such weapons, such as the American-made Stinger shoul-der-fired missiles the CIA supplied to Afghan rebels fighting Soviet forces in the 1980s.

said "negligible amounts" of Russian-made air defense weapons also were in Afghanistan, and they are included in the inventories of many central and eastern European countries.

Rumsfeld did not comment on the deal and other U.S. officials did not immediately have any information.

Later, after a meeting with President Bush at the White House. Ivanov told reporters he and Rumsfeld had briefly filled the president in on the "understanding between the governments of the two countries to control the movements" of such weapons.

Typically, these relatively cheap weapons are small, rocket-propelled warheads with heat-seeking sensors. They are designed to be triggered from a



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld listens to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov during a news conference Tuesday at the Pentagon in Washington. The United States and Russia are nearing a deal that would have the two nations working together to limit terrorists trafficking in air-defense missiles.

tube-like, disposable launcher and to follow the heat of a jet engine's exhaust to its source. CIA-backed rebels in Afghanistan used Stingers to great effect against Russian helicopters and other low-flying aircraft during the 1980s.

Ivanov also said he had accepted a U.S. invitation for Russian forces to participate in a U.S.-based military exercise to "handle nuclear safety issues while transporting nuclear muni-tions." He did not elaborate.

Later, the Pentagon issued a brief statement saying the United States will host six Russian observers at a nuclear weapons convoy security exercise this spring. It gave no details.

Ivanov said his session with Bush laid the groundwork for a meeting between the U.S. presiand Russian President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for Feb. 24 in the Slovak Republic while Bush is traveling through Europe, Ivanov and Bush talked about hotspots such as Iran and Afghanistan: the joint commitment to fight terrorism; their desire to reduce the proliferation of weapone of mass destruction: and hilateral military exercises, he said.

The two did not discuss the political situation in Russia's neighbor, Ukraine, but Ivanov did not rule it out as a topic of discussion when he returns to the White House on Wednesday to meet with national adviser Condoleezza Rice. Rice has been nominated to be the next secretary of state



AP nhote

Washington Gov.-elect Christine Gregoire was to been sworn in at noon Wednesday after a general



Republicans believe Dino Rossi may have lost the governor's race because some servicemembers overseas did not receive their absentee hallots.

Washington state finds no overseas ballot problems

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Washington state election officers and military officials say they have found no evidence of problems with overseas military absentee ballots, despite allegations that many may not have been delivered or courted.

"We're seeing allegations made that large numbers of military voters did not get ballots, but we think that's partisan rhetoric over a close election," said Pam Floyd, assistant elections director for the state. "And we believe all military ballots signed by Washington voters and received were counted."

But state Republicans believe that hundreds of overseas servicemembers never received their ballots, and that may have stolen the election from their gubernatorial candidate, Dino Rossi.

"We're getting tons of calls and e-mails from troops overseas who didn't receive their ballots, or who got them weeks after the election," said Mary Lane, spokeswoman for Rossi. "We're looking at a lot of disenfranchised military voters."

Lane provided Stars and Stripes with complaints from 14 family members who have loved ones in the military, most deployed overseas, who did not receive absentee ballots. The Rossi campaign said it has heard from 260 voters who claim not to have received ballots, though not all of them are military.

Department of Justice officials would not comment on news reports that the federal government is investigating whether state elections officials broke the law by sending out the ballots too late. Republicans have filed suit to mandate a new election because of the military issues and other supposed vot ing irregularities.

In November, Rossi was named the winner of the general election by 261 votes and won a machine recount by 42, but a second, manual recount last month showed Democrat Christine Gregoire with a 129-vote margin of victory.

Last month, Secretary of State Sam Reed, a Republican, certified the election results in Gregoire's favor, and on Tuesday the state House and Senate, both controlled by Democrats, followed suit. The Democrat was to have been sworn in as governor on Wednesday.

Washington was the last state to send out its overseas ballots, with all but one county mailing them by Oct. 8, Floyd said. That left 39 days for overseas military personnel to receive and return the votes, which were accepted until 14 days after the November election.

Joe Hitt, spokesman for Fort Lewis in Washington, said none of the Army Reserve units currently deployed overseas have reported problems over missing or damaged ballots.

"It just seems to be something that's being blown up in the press," he said. "We haven't heard any complaints about ballots."

But Lane said her office has heard numerous complaints, even from troops who double-checked their registration and mailing addresses to make sure they received ballots.

Department of Defense officials did not return calls seeking comment on the ballot controversy. Arguments in the GOP court challenge will begin Friday.

F-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@strines.osd.mil

Abizaid, Turkey to discuss expanding Incirlik operations

Though

operations at

Incirlik have

been reduced

dramatically

since March

2003, the

United States

still is a

tenant.

BY TERRY BOYD Stars and Strings

The overall commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East visited Turkey's capital Ankara on Tuesday, apparently hoping to narrow differences between the two NATO allies, especially when it comes to Irad.

Scheduled to visit Turkey for two days, Gen. John Abizaid, U.S. Central Command commander, is to meet with top Turkish government and military officials about expanding U.S. operations at Incirlik Air Base in south-central Turkey, according to a Turkish official who asked not to be identified.

That official said he had no details, but U.S. officials apparently

want to fly cargo into Iraq from Incirlik, according to a story in Wednesday's Los Angeles Times. In Iraq, deteriorating security has led U.S. officials to use air transportation

rather than road convoys to move people and materiel.

Though opera-

tions there have been reduced dra-matically since the U.S invaded Iraq in March 2003 the United States still is a

2000, me United States still is a trenant at Incilik. The Air Force has based there "a limited number of KCL33 refueling aircraft that support the mobility air bridge for Operations Enduring Freedom [in Afghanistan] and Iraqi Freedom, "wrote Capt. Rickardo Bodden, spokesman for the 39th Air Base Wing at Incirilik, in an e-mail response to a Stars and Stripes query."

Bodden referred all other questions to U.S. European Command officials in Stuttgart, Germany, who in turn referred questions to CENTCOM headquarters in

Tampa, Fla.

Abizaid's meetings with Turkish officials "are behind closed
doors ... and I'm not privy of
those meetings going on now,"
said Cmdr. Nick Balice, a CENTCOM spokesman Balice declined
to disclose what issues Abizaid is
discussing with Turkish officials.

"Since September 11th, our set of strategic interests has shired somewhat and it's going to be some time before that sorts itself out," Abizaid said in a Tuesday news conference, acknowledging growing differences between Turkey and the United Kingdom. "I don't think that that's surprising, but the U.S. and Turkey are working together very closely in a variety of areas."

There may be some quid pro quo involved for both countries to get what they want.

U.S. officials want increased access to Incirlik in southeastern Turkey, about 400 miles west of the Iraq border, the Turkish



source said. The Turks, still fighting Kurdish separatists in the southeast, want the United States to push fighters from the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, out of northern Iraq, he said.

Abizaid demurred, saying the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq are the first priority for U.S. forces, according to the Turkish source.

During his two-day visit, Abizaid is to meet Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Ilker Bashbu and

Foreign Minister Abdullah Gül of the Justice and Development Party, a conservative, Islamic-oriented party that has

ruled secular Turkey since 2002. The United States has had ac-

cess to a limited number of Turkish bases and intelligence facilities since 1952, when Turkey joined NATO. From the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991

through 2003, the United States and Britain used Inciritis and an air force base in Diyarbakir—near the Iraq border—to fly Operation Northern Watch missions over northern Iraq. Those missions stopped then-Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from harassing minorities in the north, including minorities in the north, including Turkey intelligence on Kurdish militant erouss.

Even at the height of Northern Watch, when an average of 5,000 Americans were based at Incirlik, Turkish military officials placed strict limits on what they did

The Turks allowed Northern Watch planes to fly 50 hours per month, but no more than three hours per day, and no more than three days per week, a spokesman at Turkey's Defense Ministry told Stars and Stripes in 2002. Northern Watch commanders were allowed no more than 48 air-craft at Incirlik.

The Turkish General Staff approved all Northern Watch operations schedules a month in advance, the Northern Watch commander at the time told Stars and

Stripes.

Turkey opposed the second Gulf War and forbade the United States to launch offensive missions off Turkish soil, allowing only medical missions, refueling and troop rotations to and from Iraq and Afghanistan via Incirlik.

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Levent Uransel in Ankara contributed to

Missile defense 'glitch' won't delay future testing

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The failure of an interceptor

missile to launch during a December test of the Pentagon's soon-to-be-activated missile defense system was caused by a "minor glitch" in its computer software, and the setback will not delay future testing, a senior official said Wednesday. It was the first time the booster rocket was to be

tested with a new and improved "kill vehicle," the device atop the rocket that uses computer codes and sensors to guide itself into the path of an incoming enemy missile. The device "kills" the target by colliding with it. Air Force Lt. Gen. Henry A. Obering, director of

the Missile Defense Agency, said the Dec. 15 test will be redone in mid-February, and additional tests in April, July and September will proceed as planned.

In the meantime, the eight missile interceptors that are now in underground silos in Alaska and California are capable of being activated for use against an actual missile attack against the United States, Obering told reporters.

He said he did not know when the system, which links the interceptor missiles with a network of tracking radars and a command post, would be for mally declared ready for use. The Bush administration had made it a goal to activate the system by the end of 2004, citing North Korea as the primary threat to launch a ballistic missile capable of reachine the United States.

Obering said his agency plans to have 18 interceptors in silos by the end of this year.

In the Dec. 15 test, a target missile — a simulated ICBM with a mock warhead — was launched without problem from Kodiak, Alaska.

But the interceptor that was to fly into the target's path in outer space, destroying it by direct impact, did not launch from its pad at the Ronald Reagan Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific Ocean

Obering said the blame lay with an automated pre-launch check of the communications flow between the interceptor and the main flight control computer. In response, the Pentagon will increase the pre-launch tolerance for missed messages.

IN THE STATES

Death toll at 10 in Calif. mudslide More word

Bodies of mother and three children latest found: searches continue | hitting

BY GREG RISLING The Associated Press

LA CONCHITA, Calif. - Rescuers searching with shovels, their bare hands and tiny video cameras dropped into holes found the bodies of a woman and three of her children before dawn Wednesday, bringing the death toll from a mudslide in this seaside hamlet to 10, officials said.

Ventura County Fire Capt. Danny Rodriguez said the bodies were found as crews worked around the clock for a second straight night, swarming over the debris pile under a clear sky and powerful lights.

The four dead were the wife and three daughters of La Conchita resident Jimmie Wallet, Ventura County sheriff's chaplain Ron Matthews told The Associated

The storms also were blamed for flooding that destroyed houses in Arizona and Utah

Twelve people were still listed missing after Monday's oot-deep mudslide, which 30-foot-deep was triggered by five days of nearly nonstop rain. But officials said that number was expected to be reduced to eight to reflect the discovery of the mother and children. With the 10 known dead at La Conchita, the storm's toll in California since Friday rose to 25.

Wallet had been among the most visible of the town's resi-



dents since the slide as he frantically searched alongside firefighters for his 37-year-old wife, Mechelle and daughters Hannah, 10, Rayen, 6, and Paloma, 2,

After the bodies were found, friends took him out of town with his 16-year-old daughter. Wallet was out getting ice cream when the slide hit, while his teen daughter was in Ventura.

"I'm very pleased with the hard work and all the effort in finding my family," Wallet said in a statement relayed by Matthews. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

planned to visit the area Wednes-

The days of torrential rain also triggered fatal traffic accidents all across the state, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands, imperiled hillside homes and

caused flash floods

In La Conchita, firefighters remained hopeful they might still find at least some people alive.

By early Wednesday, no new sounds had been heard under the rubble for more than 24 hours But Ventura County Fire Chief Bob Roper said teams would continue looking and listening for signs of life.

"We're still finding voids," he

day for possible survivors trapped inside collapsed houses after a mudslide in the tiny coastal town of La Conchita, Calif. A hillside toppled Monday,

ers search through home debris Tues-

damaging more than a dozen homes and burving others under 25 feet of mud and rock,

leaving at least six people dead.

vivors could use to breathe. "We're still going to continue this as a search and rescue opera-Crews were bringing in a radar device Wednesday to scan into

said, referring to air pockets sur-

the debris pile, he said Ten people were injured in the slide, which came down like a curving, rolling waterfall onto the tiny town between Highway 101

Fifteen homes were destroyed and 16 were damaged. Roper said the slide rolled homes over and intermixed debris, hindering efforts to identify the rubble of spe-

oflasers airplanes

By LESLIE MILLER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - At least a dozen cases of lasers being beamed into aircraft cockpits since Christmas are being investigated by the FBI. The lasers can temporarily blind pilots.

A cluster of incidents received wide attention between Christmas and New Year's Day, and the FBI says at least four more have occurred in the past week.

Authorities have continued to rule out terrorism.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta was briefing reporters Wednesday about the issue at the Federal Aviation Administration's aeronautical research center in Oklahoma City.

Mineta was expected to announce new measures for alerting pilots and preparing them to react when lasers are shined at their aircraft. He was also expected to outline ways to notify law enforcement investigators more quickly

Last week, a pilot told law enforcement officials that a green light appeared on the nose of his aircraft as it was taking off from

the Burbank, Calif., airport. To our knowledge there was no danger to the aircraft," said Cathy Viray, spokeswoman for

the FBI in Los Angeles. Last weekend two nilots near Washington Dulles International Airport reported lasers beamed at them, according to FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman.

The first incident occurred Saturday and involved a helicopter from the Fairfax County (Va.) Police Department; the other happened Sunday to a US Airways Express flight.

Weierman said the hureau was investigating. There have been no arrests and neither pilot was affected by the laser light, she said

Beginning Christmas night, there were reports of lasers pointed at aircraft cockpits in Cleveland, Houston, Colorado Springs, Colo., Medford, Ore., and Nashville. Tenn. Many of the reports described a green beam

A New Jersey man was arrested and charged last week for aiming a green laser at a small jet flying over his home near Teterboro Airport

Bond set in civil rights case

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. - Edgar Ray Killen, the reputed Klansman charged with the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers in rural Mississippi, was ordered held Wednesday on \$250,000 bond as he awaits a March 28 trial

Circuit Judge Marcus Gordon also ordered that if Killen is able to post the bond, he must report to the sheriff each week on his where-Killen, a 78-year-old part-time preacher,

stood in an orange jail jumpsuit and nodded when the judge asked him if he could hear. The lifelong resident of this Mississippi town had said after his arraignment last week

that he was unable to afford an attorney de spite owning 20 acres of land, a small sawmill and vehicles

2 killed in Tennessee rampage

JACKSON, Tenn. - A man was being held Wednesday after a bloody rampage at a state maintenance garage. The man's estranged wife and two others were killed, and two others were wounded.

Homicide and attempted homicide charges were expected to be filed against David Jordan, 40, police said.

According to police, Jordan — armed with an assault rifle, a 12-gauge pump shotgun, a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol and a .45-caliber semiautomatic pistol — walked into the Department of Transportation garage Tuesday and opened fire on his wife, department employee Donna Renee Jordan, 31, She died at

FTC shuts down e-mail porn ads

WASHINGTON - Claiming a victory against X-rated spam, the Federal Trade Com mission won an order to shut down illegal Internet advertising for six companies accused of profiting from sexually explicit e-mail.

U.S. District Court Chief Judge Philip M. Pro in Las Vegas on Tuesday granted the commission's request for preliminary injunctions against the companies their executives and

an affiliate, which would last the length of the FTC's civil suit against them. The FTC says the defendants violated federal laws regulating commercial electronic mail, commonly

and a coastal bluff

Dean seeks to lead Democrats

WASHINGTON - Former presidential candidate Howard Dean has decided to seek the party's chairmanship. Dean's entry into the race appears to

pre-empt another bid for the presidency in 2008. The chairman's job carries a four-year term and Dean has said that anyone who serves as chairman should be ruled out as a presidential candidate.

Dean joins a field that includes former Indi-ana Rep. Tim Roemer, former Texas Rep. Martin Frost, Democratic activists Simon Rosenberg and Donnie Fowler, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb and former Ohio nocratic Party chairman David Leland Democrats will vote on a party chairman in

early February.

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Justices find fault with federal sentencing

Supreme Court ruling targets system allowing judges to lengthen prison terms

BY GINA HOLLAND The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that federal judges have been improperly adding time to criminals' sentences, a decision that puts in doubt longtime sentencing

The court, on a 5-4 vote, said that its ruling last June that juries — not judges — should consider factors that can add years to defendants' prison sentences applies as well to the 17-year-old federal guideline system

The justices refused to backtrack from a 5-4 decision that struck down a state sentencing system because it gave judges too much leeway in sentencing. But the high court stopped short of striking down the federal system.

Justice Stephen Breyer said the federal sentencing system is

at least in part invalid because it forces judges to use the guidelines. But he said that the system could be salvaged, if judges use it on an advisory basis.

About 64,000 people are sentenced in federal courts each year, under a system that had been challenged as unconstitutional in a pair of cases at the Su-

The federal guidelines are intended to make sure sentences do not vary widely from co room-to-courtroom.

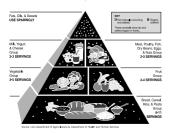
While juries consider guilt or innocence, judges make factual decisions that affect prison time, such as the amount of drugs involved in a crime, the number of victims in a fraud or whether a defendant committed perjury during trial.

The high court's vote to require more jury participation was 5-4 and included the same odd right-left combination of justices as those who had held sway in

Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas are the court's most conservative members. Justices John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg are in the liberal wing.

In a dissent, the other four justices wrote: "History does not support a 'right to jury trial' in respect to sentencing facts."

Food Guide Pyramid A Guide to Daily Food Choices



USDA

Shown is the USDA's original food pyramid, created 12 years ago. Revised dietary guidelines issued Wednesday emphasize eating whole grains and more fruits and vegetables.

Calories, exercise part of new diet guidelines

BY LIBBY QUAID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government on Wednesday urged most Americans to eat fewer calories and exercise 30 to 90 minutes a day, updating guidelines that advised people to lose weight but gave few specifics on how to do it.

The new dietary guidelines will be used to update the familiar food pyramid, which most people recognize but few heed. The revision will be the pyramid's first since it was created 12 years ago.

Federal officials acknowledged that much of the advice will not be new to Americans, who spent millions on diet books trying to lose weight.

"It's really common sense. Do you want to feel better?" Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said. "You lower your calorie intake, you lower your carbs, your fats. You eat more fruits and vegetables, and you exercise. That's as simple as it can be. That is not too

The guidelines, developed by HHS and the Agriculture Department, strengthen the government's advice on whole grains, telling people to choose whole grains such as whole wheat bread instead of refined ones like white bread or bagels.

bread or bagels.

People should also eat a lot
more vegetables and fruit, particularly whole fruits and vegetables rather than juices, the guidelines said. And they recommend
three one-ounce servings of
whole grains each day, such as
certain unsweetened breakfast cereals, to reduce the risk of heart

disease and help maintain weight. The guidelines were based on recommendations of a 13-member panel of scientists and doctors. The committee said people lead sedentary lifestyles and choose their food poorly, leading many to exceed the calories they need even as they fail to get enough nutrition.

Controlling calories — not limiting carbohydrates, as some popular diets recommend — is key to controlling weight, the panel said. Also key is daily exercise. The panel recommended a minimum of at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise — brisk walking or gar-

dening — on most days.

But it said many adults need to exercise for 60 minutes or more to prevent weight gain, and people who have lost weight may need to exercise for 60 to 90 minutes to keep it off.

Bush proposal would expand testing in high school grades

BY DEB RIECHMANN

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — President Bush on Wednesday began his push to require high school students to take the math and reading tests now required of younger students under the No Child Left Behind law, the most ambitious item on the president's slate of second-term education proposals.

"Testing is important." Bush

said at J.E.B Stuart High School in this Washington suburh. "Stein ing at high school levels will help us become more competitive as the years go by Testing in high schools will make sure that our children are employable for the object of the 21st century. Testing will make sure the diploma is not merely a sign of endurance, but the mark of a young person ready to succeed."

In education, Bush's focus is on high schools and on expanding the No Child Left Behind Act that is designed to raise achievement among poor and minority children and penalize schools that don't make adequate yearly

progress.
"We're not interested in medi-

ocrity." Bush said at the school, which was the lowest-performing among those in relatively prosperous Fairfax County, Va., in 1997, but met its academic goals under No Child Left Behind Act in the 2003-04 school year. "We re interested in excellence so not one single child is left behind in our country," he said.

try," he said.
Bush wants to require states to
test students annually in reading
and math in grades three through
11. That's an expansion of the law
he signed in 2002, which requires
those tests in grades three
through eight, and at least once
during grades 10 to 12.

The president also wants to require that the 12th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress be administered in every state in reading and math every two years.

Rep. George Miller of California, ranking Democrat on the House Education Committee, has said the idea of adding testing is going to have rough sledding, not just on Capitol Hill but I think in communities all across the country." Miller says schools are struggling to keep up with the financial burden of their existing federal requirements, let alone new ones.



President Bush and Margaret Spellings, Bush's nominee to replace Rod Paige as secretary of Education, walk to the Oval Office at the White House on Wednesday

Guard comes to rescue of frozen town

BY MARY PEMBERTON The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — An Alaska National Guard helicopter reached a frozen Arctic village with technicians who hoped to repair its electrical generator, which failed Sunday during a blizzard that sent the temperature to 20 below zero.

About 100 of Kaktovik's 300 residents were in the village's equipment maintenance building because it still had power. Others were heavily dressed and hunkered down in other buildings with stoves or small generators.

Alaska National Guard spokeswoman Kalei Brooks said the helicopter and a cargo plane approached the village Tuesday afternoon. Snow drifts on a runway kept the airplane from landing, but the helicopter touched down in Kaktovik itself 2 to 3 miles away.

The time on the ground was brief — just five to 10 minutes. Brooks said.

"It was on the ground long enough to offload the technicians they need to restore the power," she

said, plus about 600 pounds of portable generating equipment.

Conditions in Kaktovik were a little colder Tuesday with a reading of 25 degrees below zero and winds gusting up to 65 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

Earlier air attempts to reach Kaktovik were frustrated by "a complete, total whiteout," said Mike Haller, a spokesman for the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

itary and Veterans Affairs.

People who couldn't leave their homes were using propane stoves, kerosene heaters and wood stoves to try to stay warm, or bundling up in arctic gear. No injuries have heave propted exid Dennis O. Becker.

to try to stay warm, or bundling up in arctic gear. No injuries have been reported, said Dennis O. Packer, also in the mayor's office. Plans were under way to get another 4,000 pounds of generators, oil and other equipment to the north-

of generators, oil and other equipment to the northeast Alaska village, which is on Barter Island along the Beaufort Sea coast. It's the only village in the 19.6-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Officials said if aircraft couldn't make the next delivery, the equipment would be loaded onto SnoCats for a 100-mile overland trip from Deadhorse in the Prudhoe Bay oil fields.

New Apple products going smaller, more affordable

BY MAY WONG The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - Seeking to make inroads against lower-cost competitors, Apple Computer Inc. introduced a cut-rate computer the size of a pa-perback and a tiny iPod that starts at \$99 but holds far fewer songs than the company's hard drive-based music players

The new products were intro duced Tuesday by Apple CEO Steve Jobs at Macworld Expo.

The Mac mini computers go on sale Jan. 22 and represent Apple's first foray into the budget desktop PC arena, which has been largely confined to personal computers that rely on Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system

Smaller than even some standalone external computer drives, they lack a monitor, mouse and keyboard. The 40-gigabyte Mac mini will cost \$499, an 80-gigabyte model \$599

They'll ship with Apple's latest operating system, Mac OS X Panther, as well as the newest version of its iLife suite of digital media software programs, also unveiled Tuesday

"People who are thinking of switching will have no more ex-cuses," Jobs said. "It's the newest and most affordable Mac ever.

Apple has just a 3 percent share of the U.S. computer market, and company executives say they're aiming with the Mac mini to woo PC users who may have felt Apple products were too high-priced.

The iPod shuffle, on the other hand, seeks to build on Apple's heady success in the portable music business while appealing to people seeking flash memory-based players, which are more durable and lightweight than those using hard drives for storage — and thus better suited as exercise partners.

The shuffle is smaller than most packs of chewing gum, weighs less than an ounce and is a third of an inch thick.

Unlike its larger cousin, the iPod mini, the shuffle lacks a display. There's a scroll wheel for the controls so stored songs can either be played sequentially or automatically shuffled in random

Apple is selling two versions of the iPod shuffle



Apple COMPLITERS/A

pple is releasing a new, smaller \$99 version of its popular iPod, as well as a mini computer selling for as low as \$499.

The smallest-capacity model will have 512 megabytes of storage, which holds up to 120 songs, and costs \$99. A one-gigabyte version, which holds up to 240 songs, will sell for \$149.

Until Tuesday, the lowest cost iPod was the mini, which costs \$249 for four gigabytes — enough to store about 1,000 songs

Illinois House passes gay rights bill

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - The Illinois House on Tuesday passed a bill that bans discrimination against gays and sent it to Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who has said he supports the measure.

If the Democratic governor signs it, Illinois will join 13 other states that bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"This legislation sends a clear message that we will not allow our citizens to be discriminated against," Blagojevich said in a statement.

The measure would add "sexual orientation" to the state law that protects people from bias based on race, religion and similar traits. It applies to discrimination in such areas as jobs and housing.

Opponents argued it would lead to approval of gay marriage and allow cross-dressers to use rest rooms of the opposite sex.

Clinton defends women's rights

NEW YORK - U.S. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton urged hundreds of supporters of women's rights not to give up despite difficulties created by President Bush's policies.

The New York Democrat, who was a keynote speaker at the 1995 U.N. women's conference in Beijing, told the annual awards dinner of the International Women's Health Coalition Tuesday night that "the current administration is making it more difficult for women to receive the full range of health services."

The platform adopted at the 1994 U.N. population conference in Cairo says women have the "right to make decisions concerning reproduction, free of discrimination, coercion and violence." The Beijing platform says women have the right to decide "on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive

New England has flu shot surplus

BOSTON — The New England states, which just three months ago struggled to get enough flu vaccine for their residents, now ave a glut of the medicine, raising the possibility that surplus shots will be thrown away at the end of the flu season

The Boston Globe has determined that more than 300,000 doses of flu vaccine still may be available in all six states in the region In Vermont, officials are pushing to get rid of 5,000 remaining

doses of flu vaccine States around the country imposed vaccine restrictions in Octo-ber after British regulators unexpectedly shut down a major U.S. vaccine supplier due to concerns about bacterial contamination. Initially, healthy children and adults under 75 were barred from getting shots.

From The Associated Press



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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480. APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330 6/3/15 Griecheim

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

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or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes osd mil

How to call us Editor: DSN 349-8237. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Latters: DSN 349-8209. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601203 Sports: DSN 349-8209. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601405 Sports: DSN 349-8225. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8437. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Afvertising: DSN 349-8437. civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601333443.

News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code + 49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert, 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE
09139-7535; tel. DSN 469-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN 469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/300-8007

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boydtr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406;

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Uni 29480, APO AE 09211; tel DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0) 6155-601326; e-mail: sandersonw@mail.estripes.osd.mil; and amest, nev M. 1807.11, bit DSN 343-8255 or civ. (10 1515-691356, mm.), andersomen@missterps.codm.; and lexicis lilips, thet 22408, PM 54 69211, bit DSN 348-2500 or civ. (0) 1515-30120, mm.) imp@missterps.cod missterps.cod missterps.cod missterps.cod missterps.cod missterps.cod missterps.cod misster civ. (0) 1527-162421, e-mails: (mp@missterps.cod missterrositeriors.com) conference of the composition of the co

Stattgart: Charlie Coon, CMR 423, Box 465, APO AE 09107-0465; tel. DSN 421-2088 or civ. 0711-7292088; e-mail: coonc@mail.estripes.osd.mil

e-mail- iensenr@mail e

SPAIN

Rota: Scott Schonauer, PSC 819, Box 1, FPO AE 09645; tel. DSN
727-1099 or civ. (+34) (956) 82-1099; fax DSN 727-1034 or
civ. (+34) (956) 82-1034
e-mail: e-broad

crv. (+34) (95) 82-1034 e-mail: schoneurs@mail.estripes.osd.mil UNITED KINGDOM RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Building 465 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall, APO AE 09459; tel. DSN 28-4988 or civ. (+44) (0) 1638/544868; fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013;

WASHINGTON D.C. au editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, hington D.C. 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail Bureau editor: Patrick Di

dicksonp@sthpes.osd.mil Lisa Burgess, tel civ. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson, tel civ. (+1) (703) 695-9524; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 330, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+1) (202) 761-1183;

fax civ. (+1) (202) 761-0890: e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil strines and mil and shanel@strines and mil

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Any creationism evidence?

I must respond to "Evolution is still a theory" (Dec. 9)

A hypothesis is an untested idea. Hypotheses are tested using scientific methods. Once proved, an hypothesis might become part of a theory. A theory is used to document a work in progress for things that cannot be proved exactly.

For example, two plus two is four is a fact with no room for refinement. Gravitation is still theory. Things fall down is an hypothesis that was tested and is a fact.

No one aspect of evolution explains everything we see. However, the following hypotheses of evolution are so well docu-

mented that they are considered "facts": ■ Specimens with a survival advantage are more likely to pass on their genes and thus the traits that give survival advantage. Over generations, this "natural selection" magnifies these traits. Antibiotic re-

- sistance is one manifestation of natural se-■ Mutations leading to new species is
- well documented in the lab Experiments have reproduced the
- evolution of three species of wheat. ■ The hypothesis that a virus can change the DNA of a host is now accepted and used in the laboratory

I would welcome an article showing scientific evidence supporting creationism. Who are the scientists who "in the past 20 years ... have uncovered data that create disconnects in the original theory of evolution and the big-bang theory"?

Ruth Ann Valentine Heidelberg, Germany

Evolution makes no sense

On Dec. 18, Stars and Stripes contained letters supporting evolution. The writers attempted to explain why theory (as in evolution theory) doesn't mean "theory.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or hase and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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I have critical thinking skills and believe in using them. Therefore, I am unable to embrace evolution. It does not stand the test of logic.

Evolution as the theory behind the origin of the species makes no sense. Why? ■ Species do not interbreed with a new species replacing the previous. There is no

evidence that this has ever happened. ■ The theory of evolution is racist in nature - which humans are the most

evolved? ■ Most importantly, the theory of evolution violates the second law of thermody. namics

Now, in science a theory is a theory, but a law is a law. The second law of thermodynamics basically says this: Left to itself, an isolated system tends toward a state of maximum disorder. In other words, something left to itself will wear out, run down, etc. Chaos comes from order, not order from chaos. This is a scientific law, not a theory. Evolutionary theory defies this

Evolution teaches life came from nonlife, and order from disorder in utter defiance of this scientific law. It teaches that through random chance, butterflies came to be. No one would believe a computer just happened, why think that about the universe? The mathematical improbability our universe happening by chance is mind-boggling!

Scientists are supposed to have open minds when investigating. If the possibili-ty of a creator is ruled out, all theories considered exclude this. Intellectual honesty supports looking at all possibilities, even if it leads to the recognition that there is a creator God. Looking around at our world and the

abundance of life. I think it takes a lot less faith to believe in God than evolution. Desirae Clark

Büdingen, Germany

Southern hospitality evident

I was taking my daughter to school, and at the red light I looked at the vehicle next to mine, which had a yellow "support the troops" ribbon on it. That got me to thinking about the war in Iraq, and I decided I wanted to send a letter of encouragement to the troops.

I think I represent the average American. The things I want the troops to know are: In my part of the country, from Alabama to Louisiana, cars and trucks are plastered with "support the troops" rib-bons. Every day, I and countless others pray for the troops' safety and that God grant them victory over our enemies and the enemies of all freedom-loving peo-

The jobs U.S. servicemembers are doing are thankless ones, but I want them to know that all of us in the States appreciate what they are doing and think about the troops daily. Keep up the good work. William Sanders

Florence, Ala

Airfare wars: Delta's death wish

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

Anyone who still doubts that major U.S. air carriers are on a suicide mission should look no further than the executive suite at Delta Air Lines.

Here we have a company that lost \$3 billion in the first nine months of last year and has a cost structure higher than its struggling rivals. So what's its solution? A sharp cut in airfares.

In theory, cutting fares should fill more seats and might bring in more money. But three decades of experience with fare wars leaves no doubt about what happens when one airline cuts its prices. Every rival matches the cuts, at least in markets where they compete directly.

That's just what happened this week. The whole money-losing lot of old-line legacy carriers - American, United, US Air-

ways, Northwest, Continental - was busy cutting fares and its own financial throat. American is going further than most

Like Delta, it is eliminating Saturday-night stay requirements for its cheapest fares. In effect, that opens cheap fares to business travelers who used to pay top dollar So the boost in business that Delta ex-

pects will be dissipated among all its rivals. All will lose more money. The fare war may chop \$3 billion from the industry's expected \$70 billion in annual reve-A quarter century after deregulation.

the old-line carriers have still not shed regulation's legacy: high labor and equipment costs and inefficient route structures. Discounters such as Southwest Airlines suffer none of those problems. They make a nice profit while the industry as a whole lost \$6

billion last year. The cheap-ticket airlines now hold a quarter of the domestic market and call the shots on fares. The winner here is the traveling public,

which profits from fare wars. The losers are airline employees and those pie-eyed optimists who still own legacy airline stocks. They'll keep losing until major airlines learn to fly as leanly and as smartly as the discounters.

Years of bone-headed airline management and myopic union leadership have left United and US Airways bankrupt. while Delta may be headed that way. US Airways may not survive the winter. American and the other legacy carriers are fly-ing wounded financially.

Delta's kamikaze fare war shows that legacy airlines remain the worst managed businesses in America. This editorial first appeared in the St. Louis

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









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OPINION

Tort system inflicts its 'pain and suffering'

BY SEBASTIAN MALLAB

The Washington Post

resident Bush has waded into two big domestic policy arguments: Social Security reform and the over-haul of the tort system. On the first issue, he should tread gently. Social Security needs to be shored up, but it's fundamentally a good program. On the second issue, an elephantine trampling would be kind. The tort system is an abomination.

The most complete study of the tort system's cost comes from the consulting firm mental reliables. Towers Perrin, Tillinghast Fowers Perrin, Tillinghast four ents are mainly insurers, which are at log-gerheads with the trial bar, so you may missible study in the study of the st

In 2003, according to Tillinghast, the tort system cost \$246 billion — meaning the average American paid \$845 for it via more-expensive goods and services. But the really shocking thing is where the billions went. Injured plaintiffs — the fabled little guys for whom the system is supposedly designed — got less than half the money.

According to Tillinghast's 2002 data, plantiffs lawyers swallowed 19 percent of the \$233 hillion. Defense lawyers pocketed an additional 14 percent, and other administrative costs, mainly at insurance firms, accounted for a further 21 percent. The legal-administrative complex thus guzzled hilly 54 percent of the money in the tort system, or \$126 billion. That's 43 times as much as the federal government has budgeted this year to combat the global AIDS pandemic.

No other system for compensating mis-

fortune has such outrageous administrtire costs. To guard against the possibility
of sickness, people buy medical naurance,
the health insairance industry, justly regarded as a paper-clogged nightmare, has
administrative costs of 14 percent. To
guard against the danger of disability, we
have the Social Security program. The
overhead for the Social Security trigoriam, a
really good number to set against the 54
percent overhead in the tort system, just
take a look at Medicare. Its overhead is
about 2 percent.

So the tort system's administrative costs are a scandal. But are its other costs much better? Of the 46 cents per dollar in the system that actually make it to plaintiffs, 22 cents are paid out to compensate people for economic damages, including damaged property, lost wages and medical expens-

property, lost wages and medical expenses. The other 24 cents are paid to compensate plaintiffs for "pain and suffering." Should we really want a system that pays out billions for emotional distress? A little thought suggests we shouldn't.

A fort system is a form of insurance: Consumers accept higher prices for products and services in exchange for the chance to be compensated if the product or service harms them. Outside the tort system, we have plenty of examples of people buying insurance or warranties. People insure their cars, homes, refrigerators; they want protection against financial setbacks. But people don't buy much insurance to protect their production of the product of their travalled preference is that they don't want it. So why have a fort system that provides more than \$50 billion in pain-and-suffering awards annually?

If the administrative costs are a scandal, and the pain-and-suffering payouts are dubious, what can be said for the residual 22 percent of the money in the tort system?



Perhaps this portion — the part that finance seconomic damages for plaintiffs — is defensible? Actually, you can't even defend this chunk, because the money is distributed so baddy. People who suffer small endium-size losses usually get nothing: more proposed to the summary of the summary o

The haphazard nature of tort payouts undermines the potentially salutary effect on corporate behavior. If manufacturers can't predict what they might be sued for and how much, they won't reach rational decisions about making their products safer. Sure enough, studies of injury rates often find no evidence that a rise in litigation is followed by an increase in safety.

Bush is pushing three kinds of tort reform, and all of them are worthy. But the ultimate goal should be to shrink the tort system radically. Measured as a share of GDP, America's tort system is more than twice as expensive as it was in 1960, twice as expensive as the current systems in France or Cranada, and three times as expensive the system in Britain. A reasonable goal on the American tort system is to halve it.

Passengers tired of taking a flier when in the air

Los Angeles Times

ast week's move by Delta Airlines to lower and simplify its fares might trigger an overdue shake-out of the nation's airline industry, which last year posted loses in excess of \$5 billion and is more than \$25 billion and is more than \$25 billion to the posted loses in excess of \$5 billion and is more than \$25 billion to the posted lose in the posted los

No industry has done a better job of gaming the bankruptcy system.

For carriers like US Airways and United, bankrupty seems less a safe harbor from creditors in which to reorganize than an ongoing part of their business plan. Flying under bankruptcy, as five airlines do, provides an unfair advantage over competitors, a license to continue losing money without facing the consequences. Worst of all, excessive reliance on this life support has stymied overall development of the industry and slowed growth of a new generation of healthy, low-cost airlines.

There is something about the airline business that turns members of Congress from both parties into hopeless socialists, unwilling to allow the market to allocate resources — in this case the skies, planes and those airport gates — to their most efficient use. Members of Congress care deeply about airlines, even beyond saving jobs in a given district, because they offer the

ments of escape from washington, not to mention sizable frequent-flier awards.

The Bush administration deserves credit for resisting congressional pressure, including from House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-III, to grant airlines more aid on the bogus theory that their ongoing woss stem from the Sept. 11 attacks. But there is still far too much interference with the free market in the business, as exemplified by the government's refusal in 2001 to allow a distress merger between United and US. Airways. Worse, Congress has reworked to the conversible of US-based carriers, which has needlessly shut out investment capital and connection

without wasnington's medding, development of the multi-fiered industry that has so benefited consumers would accelerate. By multiple tiers, we mean a business in which not every airline strives to be all things to all people.

The older carriers' business model and labor costs were predicated on the notion that you can be simultaneously Neiman Marcus and Wal-Mart. And they would charge Neiman Marcus fares for Wal-Mart service if you deigned to fly on short notice, or chose not to be stranded where you didn't want to be over a Saturday night.

A multi-tiered industry would have fewer global and national carriers engaged in more-meaningful competition, and more regional, lower-cost niche players. As the first of a new breed, Southwest Airlines — an enterprise that has saved U.S. house-holds untold billions — succeeded against

the odds, then beyond its expectations. Southwest and newer successful low-cost carriers such as JetBlue and Air-Tran now carry nearly a third of domestic passengers. Their strength is reinforced by the Internet, which robbed carriers of their pricing power and shifted it to consumers.

Delta's move to cap last-minute fares and do away with Saturday-night-stay requirements is a recognition that it's a new world out there for fliers, one that no one in Washington should oppose.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



IN THE WORLD

U.S. military limited by Indonesia

Nation seeks to reassert control over troubled area

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The U.S. military faced tighter restrictions Wednesday as the Indonesian government sought to reassert control over foreign troops, relief workers and journalists in the tsunami-devastated region, which also has been the site of a rebel insur-

In Paris, the world's wealthiest nations said they support a moratorium on debt repay-ments by countries stricken by the Dec. 26 disaster that has killed more than 150,000 peo-

The moves by the Indonesian government, aimed primarily at U.S. troops, underscore the nationalistic country's sensitivities at having foreign military forces operating there even in a humanitarian effort. They also come amid warnings from the Indonesian military that areas of tsunami-battered Aceh province may not be safe for aid workers

Hundreds of troops from Australia, Sin-gapore, Germany and other nations are also helping the relief mission. The Indonesian mil-itary is providing security for all of them.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln which is leading the U.S. military's relief effort, steamed out of Indonesian waters Wednesday because the U.S. Navy only has permission from the Indonesians to fly aircraft into its airspace that are directly support ing the humanitarian operation, said Lt. Cmdr. John M. Daniels, spokesman for the Lincoln carrier strike group.

Helicopters will still deliver aid to Sumatra's devastated coast, however.

Indonesia declined to let the ship's fighter ilots use its airspace for training missions. Under U.S. Navy rules, pilots of carrier-based warplanes cannot go longer than 14 days with-out flying or their skills are considered to have degraded too far.
Since the Abraham Lincoln has been sta-

tioned off Sumatra since Jan. 1, the carrier moved out of Indonesian waters so its pilots could conduct their training flights in interna-

tional airspace.
Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla said foreign troops would be out of the country by



Survivors of the tidal wave disaster wait with their belongings to be taken to new refugee center outside Banda Aceh in Indonesia on Wednesday. Indonesian troops and volunteers are still clearing the dead from rubble after the Dec. 26 quake-triggered tsunami left its trail of destruction and claimed the lives of 106,000 people in Indonesia alone.

"A three-month period is enough, even the sooner the better." Kalla said. The Pentagon said it is cooperating with for-

eign governments, but did not comment on the Indonesian deadline The Indonesian government also ordered

aid workers and journalists to declare travel plans or face expulsion from Aceh as authorities moved to reassert control of the rebellion-wracked area.

The White House said Wednesday it has asked the Indonesian government to explain the restrictions on aid workers and journalists

At a Paris meeting Wednesday, a French official said the world's wealthiest nations, including the United States, believe a temporary suspension of billions of dollars in debt repayments by tsunami-devastated countries will provide a necessary "breath of oxygen" for recovery and reconstruction from the disaster that killed more than 150,000 people across southern Asia.

While three debtor countries - Indonesia.

Sri Lanka and the Sevchelles - support the moratorium. Thailand does not because it fears the potential effect on its standing in international financial markets, French Finance Minister Herve Gaymard told RFI radio.

The details on the moratorium were being finalized Wednesday

Security concerns threaten to hamper efforts to deliver aid to Aceh province on the northern tip of Sumatra island, where more than 100,000 people were killed and tens of thousands left homeless or in need. The United Nations has been running the relief effort, appealing to donors attending a conference in Geneva to honor the unprecedented \$4 billion

in pledges to help victims. Separatists in the Aceh region have been fighting for an independent state for decades. Indonesia's military chief offered the rebels a cease-fire Tuesday, matching a unilateral one already declared by the insurgents.

The military has nevertheless warned that rebels could rob aid convoys and use refugee camps as hideouts but has yet to offer evidence to back its claims

The 460-article constitution provides for an EU foreign minister and a president to be appointed by the EU leaders.

EU deci-It streamlines sion-making, ending vetoes in almost 50 new policy areas, including judicial and police coopera-tion, education and economic policy. But veto rights remain in sensitive areas such as foreign affairs, defense, social security, taxation and culture.

The constitution gives the EU simpler voting rules ensuring that decisions are adopted if at least 65 percent of the member states are in agreement and they represent at least 55 percent of

the EU population of 455 million Also, it will be easier for nations to opt out of EU policies

they don't like or band together and forge ahead without others being able to stop them as is now the case. For the first time since the cre-

ation of the union in 1957, member states can voluntarily leave

Spy agency reforms

LONDON — Britain's foreign spy agency MI6 is appointing a senior new official to check the quality of its intelligence following flawed reporting on Iraqi weap ons, the government said Wednes-

The service also is hiring a top business executive to modernize its management structure, said a spokesman for the Foreign Office, which oversees MI6.

An official report last year criti-cized the agency's intelligence on Iraq, saying information about Saddam Hussein's weapons relied in part on "seriously flawed" or "unreliable" sources. In October, MI6 formally withdrew intelligence that Iraqi troops could deploy some chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes' notice a claim used as rationale for joining the U.S.-led war on Iraq.

Possible cattle ban

TORONTO - The announcement by Canadian authorities of another case of mad cow disease could strengthen the case of a group of U.S. cattlemen who want a ban against cross-border cattle trading to remain in place.

Authorities on Tuesday confirmed the case of the deadly brain-wasting disease in the western province of Alberta, the second animal found to have mad cow since U.S. officials announced last month they would resume the cattle trade with Cana-

Canadian officials said no part of the cow - the third case of the disease ever found in the country - has entered the human or animal feed system

3 dead after UK storms

LONDON - Three people died after storms battered north Britain and Northern Ireland and 60,000 were without electricity in Scotland as the fierce winds continued Wednesday.

Across Scotland, roads and bridges were closed, ferry services abandoned and rail routes suspended as police and travel chiefs appealed to the public to post-pone nonessential journeys.

Meanwhile some 10,000 homes in the northern English market town of Hexham remained without water due to flooding.

Uzbek border patrols

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan The United States on Wednesday gave two patrol boats to Uzbekistan's border service as part of security assistance for the ex-Soviet country, the U.S. Embassy said. The two Ukrainian-made Gyur-

za river patrol boats worth \$5.6 million are part of the State Denartment's security assistance program for Uzbekistan signed in 2003, the embassy said in a statement.

The vessels are expected to be used to patrol the Amu Darya River along Uzbekistan's border with Afghanistan.

Under the same program, the State Department earlier provided Uzbek border and security forces with training and equipment, including night vision devices, global positioning systems and helicopter flight simulators, the U.S. Embassy said.

From The Associated Press

Germans New EU constitution approved detain 22 pressed," said European Parlia-ment President Josep Borrell BY CONSTANT BRAND The Associated Press in raids

The Associated Press

ULM, Germany - German police stepped up their crack-down on Islamic extremism Wednesday, detaining 22 peo ple during raids of apartments and mosques allegedly used by a network that provided finance ing and support to terrorists.

About 700 officers searched

apartments, mosques and call centers in five German states. discovering militant Islamic pro paganda and forged passports and visas, authorities said

The raids capped a long-term investigation of 20 people who allegedly raised money through smuggling and producing false papers to "pursue their ideologi-cal goals," said prosecutors in Munich.

Eleven were formally arrested while 11 others were placed in provisional custody.

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The

European Parliament gave its overwhelming endorsement to the European Union's first-ever constitution Wednesday and urged EU governments to quickly

follow suit.

The EU assembly, meeting in Strasbourg, France, voted 500 to 137, with 40 abstentions, to ratify the new treaty, which is to take ef-fect in 2007 if unanimously ratified across the 25-nation bloc.

The 732-member parliament called on EU governments to move quickly to sell the constitution, which faces widespread op-position in several EU-skeptic countries.

The parliament said EU governments should ensure that "all nossible efforts be deployed to inform European citizens clearly and objectively about the content of the constitution."

The result of the vote leaves no room for doubt of the support this European parliament has exafter the legislators gave the result a boisterous standing ovation

remarks were heckled down by euro-skeptic members from the British UK Indepen-dence Party, all of whom voted against and held up placards protesting the constitution, with one saying "this constitution is the death of Europe.

The parliament's main four par-ties— conservative, socialist, liberal-democrat and greens-mostly voted in favor, while commu-nists, far-right parties and British

conservatives voted against. Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country holds the EU presidency. urged all EU governments and the European Parliament to ratify the treaty, signed in Rome last October after a two-year drafting process

"This is an important moment in the history of the parliament, and it is an important moment in Europe's ratification of Europe's constitution," said Juncker.

the bloc

Campaign tries humor to stop spread of AIDS

44I think we need

to do

everything

possible [to

stop the spread

BY EDITH M. LEDERER The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS - A new global campaign to stop the spread of AIDS uses three ani-mated characters dressed as condoms who deliver a serious message in humorous public ser-vice spots in 41 languages: If you're going to have sex, use a condom.

The snots are being offered free to broadcasters, community groups and universities and have the potential of reaching 80 percent of the world's pop-ulation. Canadian producer-di rector Firdaus Kharas said

Tuesday.

"We're using humor to stop the spread of AIDS," he said at a news conference launching the public service announcements, which are targeted at people aged 15 to 24 in countries threat-ened by the epidemic including India, China, Russia, the Caribbean and central Asia

"The Three Amigos" -named Shaft, Stretch and Dick — are pictured in a variety of set-tings from a spaceship to a soc-cer field to a casino. Twenty different spots are available in each of the 41 languages and vary from 20 to 60 seconds in length. Some spots are blatantly sexual, others more restrained The punch line in the space-ship spot says: "No condom, No blastoff. Stop the spread of AIDS.3

The soccer spot says: "You just can't score without a conAnd the spot focusing on a rou-ette wheel in a casino says:

'Not all gamblers realize the odds stacked against them. Don't gamble with your life. Use a condom. Stop the spread of

Kharas said the idea for the spots came from his co-producer, South African film writer Brent Quint, who believes that

AIDS is "a preventable dis-ease," and that using animated figures and humor can get across the message that condoms are essen-tial for safe sex.

The spots are

currently being shown in South of AIDS1.77 Africa, Canada and the Nether-Firdaus Kharas Canadian producer-director lands and have already won 25

international awards and a strong endorse ment from South African Arch bishop Desmond Tutu, who called them "a powerful communicating tool to encourage peo-

ple to change their behavior."

Frequent playing of the spots "has the potential to capture the imagination of young people through humor, the portrayal of situations to which they can easily relate and the portrayal of characters who express what in a normal situation would be too embarrassing to speak of," he

"I think we need to do everything possible" to prevent the spread of AIDS, he said.

Kharas said the United States isn't a primary target for the campaign although spots have already been requested by a number of universities.

Mobile phone risk

U.K. study advises children under the age of eight not to use mobile as heavy use may be linked to ear tumors:



Source: CancerBACUP, National Radiological Protection Board

Research finds cell phones bad for kids

BY SHE LEEMAN The Associated Press

LONDON - Parents should not give mobile phones to children age 8 or younger as a precaution against the potential harm of radiation from the devices, the chairman of the National Radiological Protection Board said Tuesday.

Some experts deemed the warning unfounded and unwarranted, but a company that launched a phone aimed at young children said it was suspending sales until it has time to evaluate it.

Sir William Stewart, chairman of the NRPB, said there's no conclusive evidence showing a clear danger, but said a growing body of research shows that mobile phone use may have health implications, making it wise to adopt a "precautionary approach," particularly with children.

"I don't think we can put our hands on our hearts and say mo-

South Korea gives green

light for stem cell research

told a news conference. "When you come to giving mobile phones to a 3- to 8-year-old, that can't possibly be right.

The report cited recent studies in Sweden and Germany suggesting a potential health risk including brain tumors. It also noted research showing that radio waves can "interfere with biological systems" and a recent paper suggest-"possible effects on brain function resulting from the use of [next-generation] phones" which are becoming more common.

Many experts have dismissed those studies and other research nerformed to date as very inconclusive

Still, while "there is no hard evidence at present that the health to the public, in general, is being affected adversely by the use of mobile phone technologies," Stewart said he was "more concerned" about the implications for health than five years ago. when he last reviewed the issue.

Venice high and dry

VENICE, Italy — Often flooded by high waters, Venice is facing an exceptionally low tide these days, causing canals to dry up and water buses to be rerouted, officials said on Wednesday.

Water has gone down by at least 27 inches below sea level. the city office monitoring tides

Tourist gondolas are not reported to have problems.

The exceptionally low tide was caused by moon movements and a spell of sunny weather, the office said

Blair backs pub hours

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday pas-sionately defended new pub licensing laws that will allow Britons to drink around the clock and insisted it would not lead to an explosion in booze-fueled violence.

Later this year, restrictive licensing laws that require most pubs in England and Wales to close at 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 10:30 p.m. on Sundays will be lifted and bars will be able to apply for permissions to open any hours they like.

Opponents fear the change will encourage alcohol abuse and lead to increased violence in Britain's city centers.

But Blair insisted the rights of the majority to enjoy a pint when they choose must not be impinged because of an unruly mi-

Scrap ATM not empty

OSLO, Norway - Arild Tofte and Kaare Heggdal know that re-cycling pays, but they weren't quite prepared for the jackpot that a scrapped cash machine contained.

The two Norwegians had been hired by the Sparebanken Moere bank to remove an outdated automatic teller machine, or ATM, from a gas station, media reported Wednesday

During their rounds to pick up more scrap, they got a call saying a security guard was seeking the

"The guy was apparently a bit agitated," said Tofte. "He was very eager to empty the cash

from the machine. The cash was removed. The bank - which blamed the incident on a communications mix-up — didn't say how much was in the ATM. But Tofte said the guard who emptied the machine told him it was enough to

buy a house, take a luxury vacation and still have money to burn. Expensive convenience

GENEVA -

Authorities in

Geneva are bringing the city's public conveniences up to scratch - at a cost of \$13 million for just 35 new toilets, Swiss daily Le Matin reported Tuesday

Each sparkling new facility is designed by a different architect at a cost of \$313,000 - the same as a one-bedroom, city center apartment.

Three of the toilets have already been installed. they are functional and equipped to a high sanitary standard. city council said on its Web site. "On the outside, each public toilet is different and adapted to its surroundings.

From wire reports





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who produced the first cloned human embryo last year were given government approval Wednesday to proceed stem-cell research to find cures for diabetes, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's and other diseases but not for work toward human

SEOUL, South Korea -

The scientists, led by Professor Hwang Woo-Seok of Seoul National University, must follow detailed guidelines set by the Ministry of Health and Welfare in December, one of which allows ex-

perimentation with unused eggs at fertility clinics. The guidelines were issued South Korean team of scientists

after the South Korean Parlia-ment in January 2004 banned human cloning but left room for stem-cell research for curing dis-Last February, Hwang's team

successfully cloned a human em bryo, from which they collected stem cells, the master cells that form during soon after conception and can turn into any tissue in the body.

"With today's action, Professor Hwang's team can spur their re-search under the government's supervision," the ministry said in a statement

PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

Mine deaths settled

AL BROOKWOOD — A settlement has been reached in lawsuits stemming from the nation's deadliest mining accident since 1984: a series of explo sions at a central Alabama mine in 2001 that killed 13 miners.

The settlement re-

solved all civil legal proceedings associated with the Sept. 23, 2001, explosions against mine owner Jim Walter Resources,

Walter Industries and its affiliated companies, according to a Jim Walter statement.

Company officials would not comment on the settlement details. "This has been a very difficult, emotional time for all whose lives have been affected by this tragedy." said George Richmond, president and chief operating officer of

Keep off the ice

Jim Walter

NH CONCORD — Snowmobil-ers are being warned to stay off the ice after a weekend in which three snowmobilers went through thin ice into Lake Winnipesaukee. One died.

"The ice conditions are treacherous" Fish and Game Lt. Jim Goss said. "Most of the lake is still wide-open water.'

Even close to shore, the ice was probably only 4 to 6 inches thick, Goss said.

Suspect kills self

VA RICHMOND — Virginia State Police say a Connecticut man wanted in a murder investigation in Florida took his life late Monday as troopers closed in on

Officers were pursuing the man on Interstate 95 near Richmond when the man pulled over and shot himself in the head, said Sgt. Kevin Barrick.

The man, whose identity was not released, was pronounced dead at VCU Medical Center.

Key West Police notified Virginia authorities that the man and his 18-year-old son were heading for Connecticut in a white Lincoln Continental, Barrick said.

About 45 minutes after getting the alert, a trooper spotted the car. Barrick said the man's son was not in the car

Trucker gets prison time

CO BRECKENRIDGE — A driver who lost control of his tractor trailer on Interstate 70 and caused a pileup that killed a man has been sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Rosauro Saenz showed little emotion as Judge David Lass sentenced him to two six-year sentences for vehicular homicide and vehigular assault for the grash that injured 10 neonle

Saenz, of El Paso, Texas, will serve the sentences after completing a federal sentence for transporting drugs into Texas from Mexico. That sentence ends next year.

Prosecutors said Saenz was going at least 35 mph over the speed limit on westbound I-70 between Silverthorne and the Eisenhower Tunnel when he crashed into a minivan, then smashed into three other vehicles and plowed over the guardrail into a ravine.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bow hunt shot down

VA PORTSMOUTH — After a proposal to hold a public bow hunt of deer at Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve caused a stir the foundation that runs the 142-acre property decided to drop the idea.

Instead, after consulting with a Fairfax County expert and counting the deer, the city is considering hiring police sharpshooters to shoot the animals to manage their population, Councilwoman Elizabeth M. Psimas said.

Last year, the City Council quashed the idea of a bow hunt after representatives of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and residents flooded city offices with complaints.

Striking it rich

SD SIOUX FALLS — Some city officials earn more than the mayor and even the governor, city officials said. Lyle Johnson, city public works director, heads the city's salary list at \$137,280. Gov. Rounds' yearly salary is \$103,221, which would put him in sixth place if he worked for the city. The mayor earns \$96,173.

Principal sues police

MS SPRINGFIELD school principal is suing four city police officers who he says dragged him through the window of his car and beat him while he was having a diabetic attack.



Smooth sailing A sailboat floats down the Halifax River through late afternoon fog

in Daytona Beach Shores, Fla.

Douglas Greer, a primary school principal, says police accused him of being a drug user before eventually getting him medical heln.

Greer is seeking an unspecified amount of money in the federal lawsuit.

The suit says the officers kicked, choked and beat Greer as he repeatedly told them he was diabetic and needed juice or sugar.

The four officers have denied the accusations. A lawyer for two of them, Kevin Coyle, said his clients gave Greer "appropriate medical assistance

The four have been placed on administrative duty, and the police commission is investigating Greer's

Kangaroo can stay

WI MADISON — A kangaroo that went on a walkabout of frigid Wisconsin just might settle down in the Midwest after all.

The red-haired marsupial, now known as "Roo," was captured outside of Dodgeville after sheriff's deputies cornered the 150-pound critter in a barn during a snowstorm.

Roo remains under quarantine at the Henry Vilas Zoo, and if no one claims it, zoo officials plan to introduce it to their other kangaroos to see if they get along.

But if things don't work out, Margaret Suter said she has room at her home near Madison, where she already keeps six kangaroos and a wallaby.

"I worried for that kangaroo. It lost its caregiver," Suter said. "And if you own one of these animals, you shouldn't turn your back

Governor urges tolerance

OR SALEM — Gov. Ted Kulongoski urged state legisla. tors to pass a bill outlawing discrimination against homosexuals.

In his "state of the state" address to a joint session of the Legislature as it began its 2005 session. Kulongoski said he will submit a bill that would forbid discrimination against gays in employment, housing and public accommodations

Hospital shooting arrests

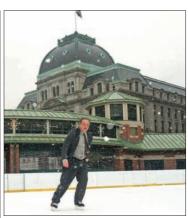
MERIDIAN — Two people were arrested Sunday in a fatal shooting at a hospital that may have been related to an earlier murder-suicide attempt, police said.

One of the suspects was arrested at Rush Foundation Hospital and the other turned himself in to police, Meridian Police Chief Benny Dubose said. Both were expected to be charged Monday.

The man fatally shot at the hospital was the son of a man who Dubose said shot himself and a woman at a Meridian home Sunday morning in an apparent murder-suicide attempt. Dubose said one of the suspects is the woman's

The man and woman found at the home did not suffer life-threatening injuries. The fatal shooting victim's name was not immediate. ly released by authorities.

Police closed off the hospital for several hours after the shooting to search for the gunmen.



Michael Rubin skates on The cutting edge of fitness the Fleet Center skating rink in front of the Providence, R.I., City Hall. Rubin is part of a growing number of adults hitting the ice for fitness and pleasure.



Mara Finley, left, and Ivy Johnson of Luding-Sledding fun ton, Mich., try to keep their balance as they sled at the water tower hill. Area schools were closed due to icy roads.



Recycling Hawaii-style Jenny Wells, of Kailua, Hawaii, center, gives her bags of aluminum cans to Mark Garcia, right, and Benjamin Onaga of Reynold's Recycling in Kailua. Hawaii recently became the first state in 16 years to pass a container redemption law. Hawaii has one of the most comprehensive programs in the country.



Where's the steeple? The steeple on Sacred Heart Church in Fried, N.D., is cut and removed from the building. The church will be moved in February from Fried to Sunset Memorial Gardens, a Jamestown, N.D., cemetery. The steeple will be erected at its original site in Fried with the three bells as a memorial for the cemetery there.



A real cool cat Acat bats around a chunk of snow while proviling around homes in Kalispell, Mont. According to an owner of a nearby home, the cat was abandoned when its family moved, but some neighbors adopted the cat and share in its feeding and carine.



Brothers, one-on-one Siblings Scott Zeiber, 16, left, and Justin Zeiber, 15, take advantage of the warm weather to play basketball in a parking lot behind their home in Phillipsburg, N.J.



A patch of blue

Dark clouds driven by high winds break behind a windmill in Macedon, N.Y.

Fired preacher won't go

MARION — Grace Missionary Baptist Church wants the pastor to quit preaching to the choir — and everybody else. And the church's trustees are going to court to stop him.

The Rev. Ed McDowell Jr., who served at the church for more than 13 years, was fired in December after a vote by both the trustees and members.

But McDowell, 63, continues to preach there because he says the vote was invalid. He has changed the locks at the church and has tried to fire church officials himself, court records said.

Church leaders have asked for a restraining order that would force McDowell to return church property, remove his personal belongings and block him from using church funds for his legal defense.

Ballot pileup

NH DOVER — Old election ballots are taking up space in town and city halls across New England.

Laws require clerks to keep federal ballots for 22 months before destroying them, in case anyone requests a recount.

In New Hampshire, state law requires clerks to hold onto state and local election ballots for two months. In Maine, clerks must keep all ballots for the full 22 months.

Belmont's clerk is storing five large boxes full of ballots from the presidential primaries alone. Dover's city clerk is storing nearly 20,000 ballots from the November elections.

Town officials reported different plans for disposing of the ballots. Some will be shredded, others incinerated. Many ballots will go straight to the dump.

Expanding its territory

NM SILVER CITY — Current boundaries of the wolf reintroduction program are causing too many wolves to be captured, removed from the wild or relocated. That's according to a five-year

review of the program by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico and Arizona game and fish departments. Government biologists propose

an expansion of the area where the endangered Mexican gray wolves have been allowed to roam.

Flag this one

OH CLEVELAND — Using two people and making 17 folds, a 19-year-old Boy Scout devised a way to fold the state's pen-ant-shaped flag into a rectangle. The solution became a new state law and earned Alex Weinstock his Eagle Scout ranking. Ohio's state flag is the only one

Ohio's state flag is the only one that doesn't have four 90-degree corners.

Mom made her do it

MIAMI — A woman has pleaded guilty to sending her 11-year-old daughter outside their home in her nightgown to peddle heroin.

Alison Lolanda Davis. 37, was

sentenced to five years in prison in a plea deal. She's been in jail since being arrested last January, unable to make \$120,000 bond, and was given credit for time served.

A prosecutor said proceedings

were pending in juvenile court to terminate Davis' parental rights. The girl, who was not charged, is in state custody along with a sister.

Police said they started watching the South Miami house in October 2003 based on a tip. Officers said they saw the girl regularly selling \$10 and \$20 doses of heroin to drivers and pedestrians.

Nun's remark backfires

WOODBRIDGE — Charges were dismissed against Sister Catherine Iacouzze, 69, who had been accused of threatening to knock out the teeth of a St. Cecelia School student for leaving class without permission.

The 11-year-old student's father withdrew the charges after the Diocese of Metuchen fired the nun. Iacouzze's lawyer said she only made a sarcastic remark to a sassy student.

Bible study vetoed

FRANKENMUTH — A rural school district will not offer a religious group's bible class as an elective high school course, ending a yearlong debate.

The school board in Frankenmuth, about 75 miles north of Detroit, decided with one dissenting vote to not offer the "Bible As Literature and History" class at Frankenmuth High School, following the recommendation of school Superintendent Michael Murbhy.

The proposed class would have been based on materials from the National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools of Greensboro, N.C.

Defendant takes a break

MA EAST BROOKFIELD — While jurors deliberated the fate of a man accused of selling a stolen gun to a pawn shop, the defendant went out for a cup of cof-

A week later, Peter J. Leo, 32, of Worcester is still is on the run.

According to court records, Leo was being tried on charges of larcemy, carrying a firearm without a license and receiving stolen property. His lawyer, Christopher Loconto, said Leo was accused of selling a pistol that did not belong to him to a pawn shoon in 2002.

After listening to closing arguments, jurors left to begin their deliberations. Leo and his girlfriend also left the courtroom, saying they were going for coffee, a court officer told The Telegram & Gazette of Worcester.

The jurors returned to the courtroom a short time later to deliver their verdict, but Leo was not there to hear he had been found guilty.

Hackers get student info

NA RICHMOND — Computer hackers captured the hackers captured the names, Social Security numbers and other information of more than 30,000 students and staff at George Mason University earlier this month, school officials said.

The university, which is in Fairfax, near Washington, D.C. discovered on Jan. 3 that intruders had hacked into a server containing the protected information, school spokesman Daniel Walsch said. He said the university notified all

The school established an information hot line and turned the case over to campus police, he said.

Photos and stories from wire services

students and staff.

FACES

Trump's version of the 'Love Boat'

Two words sum up a trip being offered to fans of "The Apprentice." You're sailing

An eight-night cruise with the theme of the hit NBC show will sail from New York to the Caribbean on Sept. 26 after a bon voyage party in Manhattan with a send-off Donald from

Cast members from the show Rill including Rancic, the first Apprentice, and Stacie Jones Upchurch, Jennifer Crisafulli and Raj Bhakta from

the second season - will be on board. The trip Legend ship

members.

will take place Former cast members of "The on the Carnival Apprentice," from left, Stacie Jones cruise Upchurch, Raj Bahakta and Jenn Crisafulli, react as Raj pops the cork Guests can meet and talk to conference.

but there also will be onboard competitions involving teams and tasks, just like there is on the TV show, which is hosted by Trump. Participation will be open to all pas-

In addition to cash prizes, one person will win the grand prize - spending a day as chief executive officer of Expedia.com, the online travel agency that is co-sponsoring the cruise

The CEO-for-a-day will get a \$15,000 paycheck for all that hard work, first-class airfare to New York and ground transportation by limousine, plus a stay in a five-star hotel.

Islev Brothers' singer pleads not guilty

Isley Brothers lead singer Ron Isley pleaded not guilty to charges of failing to report performance and royalty in-

Isley, who entered the plea Monday, was indicted in Oc-

tober for allegedly evading taxes from 1997 to 2002 by depositing his dead brother's royalty checks, buying cars for his personal use with money from a business account and paying his band members cash to eep them off the books. He is charged with five counts of

tax evasion and one count of failing to file an income tax return.

Isley, 63, was ordered to stand trial March 8. If convicted, he could face up to 26 years in prison.

According to the indictment, the R&B singer avoided paying taxes nu-

merous times in the past three decades and declared bankruptcy after the Internal Revenue Service seized his yacht, cars and other property in 1997

Tambor becomes father, grandfather

Congratulations to new father - and new grandfather Jeffrey Tambor of "Arrested Development

Tambor, 60, who plays the patriarch of a dysfunctional family on the Fox comedy, and his wife, Kasia, 35, welcomed son Gabriel Kasper on Dec. 10, spokeswoman Amy Zvi said Monday

Four days later, Tambor became a grandparent when his daughter, Molly, gave birth to son Mason Jay

Tambor, who played talk-show sidekick Hank Kingsley on television's "The Larry Sanders Show," will appear on Broadway in "Glengarry Glen Ross" beginning in April, his spokeswoman said in a statement.

Grammy-winning Tejano artist arrested

Grammy Award-winning Tejano recording artist Emilio Navaira was free on bond Tuesday following his arrest on a drunken driving charge.

Navaira was charged after his sport utility vehicle rolled over early Monday as he tried make a turn, a San Antonio, Texas, police report said.

Navaira was treated at University Hospital, where he refused to give a blood sample

He was then taken to a magistrate's office for booking and released on a \$3,500 bond.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



breaking language barriers brings in big bucks

With profits to be made, studios get serious about dubbing

44 There were lots

of things that

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in 'Shrek' are

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Poland.

Chuck Mitchell

president of Voices

"Shrek" for overseas

in the Arts, on dubbing

BY MARY MCNAMARA Los Angeles Time:

HOLLYWOOD - At first, Chuck Mitchell did not think it was such a great idea to insert a slaughterhouse joke in the middle of "Shrek."

"I said, wait a minute, I don't think so, I mean, it's one thing to have Shrek say he's going to kick Donkey's butt; it's another to have him dragging him off to the meat

But then Mitchell isn't Polish. Apparently, in Poland, there is a very funny folk tale involving a

donkey and a slaughterhouse. And according to the translator working on the Polish version of the wildly successful Dream-Works film, they would be fools not to refer-ence it. So Mitchell said go with the slaugh-

'We had a great translator," he says with "I trusted him. There were lots of things that had to be changed because a lot of the fairy tales they use in 'Shrek' are not known in Poland. So we used dialogue to

add some Polish fairy tales."

Mitchell is president of Voices in the Arts, an audio production company that does, among other things, foreign dubbing theatrical and nontheatrical film projects. As foreign sales have become increasingly important to the entertainment industry — making up, in some cases, 50 percent of revenue — the "foreign post-production," or dubbing, industry has grown in scope and expertise. Where once it consisted of literal voice-over translation often not particularly well-synchronized, now entire casts and crews are assembled to re-create the dialogue in a way that captures not only the spirit of the original

movie but also provides local nuance to make it play better in the various foreign territories.

Throughout Western Europe, English-speaking film and television has been regularly dubbed for years. In France, Italy, Germany and Spain (the FIGS, as they are called in the industry), there is a free-standing dubbing industry with studios and talent that can have lucrative careers in dubbing alone. But as Hollywood has ventured into Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa, dubbing is overseen by the American studios that will hire local actors and directors but, when the budget allows, also provide a production supervisor such as Mitchell to be on set.

Mitchell signs off on everything — from the script to the performances, where cultural translation is as important

as linguistics.

For "Shrek," Mitchell oversaw the Polish, Catalan and
Castilian versions; for "Titan A.E." he worked in Hong
Kong, Korea, Spain, Lealand and Greece; and for "Star
Wars: The Phantom Menace," he supervised the dubbing

in Hong Kong and Russia

"Chuck is part of a very select group who not only understand the creative process but also know how to do all the audio post-production," says Debra Chinn, executive director of international theatrical dubbing for Fox Film Corp., who has worked with Mitchell many times over the years 'Because it's not a question of understanding the language so much as it is understanding the original project.

"In a way, I am a professional Ameri-m," Mitchell says. "A lot of the [foreign] directors may or may not have worked in the U.S., so they may or may not get some of the references or nuance. Sometimes I have to explain that this is supposed to be ny, or this isn't."

Mitchell, who got into theatrical dubbing by way of music production and interactive bbing, is one of a handful of independent dubbing supervisors living in the United States. Occasionally, he works in the FIGS. (If there is a big enough budget for the translated version, local stars will be cast

in France, Vincent Cassel often dubs Hugh Grant; in Poland, Jerzy Stuhr dubbed Eddie Murphy in both "Shreks.") But much

of his work has been in the newer territories. Eastern Eu rope, Asia and Africa still tend toward subtitles, but that is changing, especially for those films aimed at a family audi

"When I got into dubbing in 1989," says Chinn, who has a degree in linguistics, "I went to Disney because the only studio that had its own dubbing department was Disney. Now most of the big studios have one

What happens in Vegas won't stay there

Digital future on display as gadget-hounds gather

BY CRAYTON HARRISON The Dallas Morning News

LAS VEGAS - This year's Consumer Electronics Show has had no big-bang product, noth-ing that stunned attendees with its revolutionary potential, but

the show was reminder that we're entering a world where digital gadgets and media are evervwhere.

People are using digital cameras em-bedded into cell phones, emboldening gadget mak-ers to try other bizarre digital combinations. Television and movies have become so important to consumers that they've gone

The future promises more-ubiquitous electronic devices, constantly connected to the Internet or to other devices. Here's what showgoers were buzzing about this year. ■ Photo sharing: Now that

sales of digital cameras outpace those of the film kind, technology companies are trying to find easy ways for users to send photos to each other. "It is amazing

how many digpictures are taken in this world that never go any where or do anything, " Mike George, Dell Inc.'s chief

marketing of-Dell other computer makers are offering

user-friendly printphoto ers. Eastman Kodak Co. turned heads this year with a camera that wirelessly transmits pictures to a

printer. And photo-sharing Web sites and services are expected

■ Video phones: Even tech admit it's unclear



how much people want to look at each other while they talk on the phone, "No one has offered a compelling product yet," said Jeffrey Citron, chief executive of Vonage Holdings Corp., which is planning a videophone service by the end of March. It will be interesting to see what kind of consumer is attracted to the idea, he

■ Little big screens: While the CES floor was dominated by big-screen TVs, tiny digital projectors displayed some of the biggest images. Texas Instruments Inc. was

showing off a prototype of a

eft: Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, left, and singer Gwen Stefani demonstrate the HP Haraiuku Lovers Camera that Stefani helped design, at the Consumer Electronics Show on Friday in Las Vegas. Far left: Intel Corp.'s Dave Clemons uses a Nikon D2X digital demonstrate the digital imaging power of an undisclosed new Intel computer processor at the show.

1-pound projector small enough to fit in a coat pocket, an item that may one day be a must-have for business travelers making presentations.

■ Broadband wireless: Sam-

sung Electronics, LG and Motorola all announced phones that operate on a wireless standard called EV-DO that promises some of the fastest Internet connections yet over cellular networks. Verizon Wireless has already upgraded its networks several cities to offer EV-DO. Cingular Wireless will operate on another high-speed standard, HSDPA, available later this

■ Multiangle TV: Bill Gates' opening keynote at CES was notable as much for its technical gaffes as for its breakthroughs. But SBC Communications Inc. did a demonstration for Gates presentation that did elicit gasps of delight from the audience

The San Antonio-based company showed off its new U-verse television and communications service, which the company will introduce this year as it upgrades to fiber optic lines. When SBC executive Lee Ann Champion showed how users could one day switch camera angles on a baseball game or watch several games at once, the crowd burst into applause.

■ iPod killers: Apple's music player still rules the roost, but its rivals want to make the next must-have digital device. Sony's PSP portable gaming device, which can also play music and movies, was viewed by many as a candidate. But the ultimate iPod killer could be a cell-phone version of iTunes, the Apple software. music-organizing which Motorola demonstrated at the show.

■ Geek chic: More than ever, technology companies are designing products with fashion in mind. During her speech Friday, Hewlett-Packard Co. Chief Executive Carly Fiorina brought singer Gwen Stefani onstage to introduce a "cute" digital camera she designed with the company, available in late spring.

Tuesday's Market Summary

High	L		ame			Las	st	Chg	Chg	% Chg	% Chg
10.868.07	9,708	.40 Do	w Jones	Industrial	s	10.556.2	22	-64.81	61	-2.10	+1.24
3,823.96	2,743			Transport	tation	3,644		-18.97	52	-4.05	+20.79
337.79	259			Utilities		325.	70	-1.60	49	-2.76	+22.36
7,273.18	6,211		'SE Com			7,044		-37.59	53	-2.84	+8.21
1,435,04	1.150	.74 Ar	nex Inde	x		1,392	67	-5.29	38	-2.91	+15.86
2,191,60	1.750	.82 Na	isdag Co	mposite		2,079.	62	-17.42	83	-4.40	80
1,217.90	1,060	.72 S8	P 500			1,182.		-7.26	61	-2.39	+5.51
666,99	548	.29 S8	P MidC	30		634.	52	-3.84	60	-4.34	+8.61
656.11	515	.90 Rt	issell 201	OĎ.		611.		-6.21	-1.01	-6.15	+5.23
12,024.36	10,268	.52 DJ	Wilshire	5000		11,617.	69	-79.14	68	-2.95	+6.23
_											
	NYS	F			Аме	-v			Mac	SDAQ	
	MIS				Airie	-^			IVAS	DAG	
Most A	CTIVE	(\$1 os	MORE)	Most	ACTIVE	(\$1 or	MORE)	Most	Δατιν	/F (\$1 o	R MORF)
Name V	(00) lo	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg	Name	Vol (00	i) Las	t Chg
AMD	979686	14.86	-5.27	SPDR	597031	118.18	82	SiriusS	133280	66 6.1	52
NortelN If	432428	3.48	+.14	SemiHTr	310526	30.76	66	Intel	99600		
Lucent	345857	3.49	04	iShRs2000	113147	121.60	-1.50	Nasd100Tr		18 38.2	5 -27
NewsCnA n	241885	16.93	20	iShJapan	82357	10.77		TASER 5	64183	36 14.1	-5.95

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS						
Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg 9	YTD KChg	
Alliant Technosystem		16	64.96	+.54	6	
Armor Holdings		29	44.12	-1.64	-6.2	
Boeing	1.00	15	50.82	16	-1.8	
Computer Sciences		18	53.49	35	-5.1	
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	21	56.75	35	-4.2	
General Dynamics	1.44	17	101.51	+.03	-3.0	
General Electric	.88	23	35.40	51	-3.0	
Halliburton	.50		38.19	+.35	-2.7	
Harris Corp.	.48	26	57.03	79	-7.7	
Allied Signal	.83	20	34.00	10	-4.0	
L-3 Communications	.40	21	69.00	+.05	-5.8	
Lockheed Martin	1.00	20	55.10	+.10	8	
NorthrpG s	.92	19	52.75	17	-3.0	
Raytheon	.80	42	36.54	35	-5.5	
Rockwell Intl.	.66	24	51.85	+5.59	+4.6	
Segua Corp.	-	37	61.00	01	2	
Texas Instruments	.10	21	22.37	24	-9.1	
Textron Inc.	1.40	31	70.23	06	-4.8	
United Tachnologies	1.60	10	100.16	+ 42	-2.1	

KEY MUTU	HL I U	NDS	YII
Name	NAV	Chg.	%Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	37.55	19	-1.7
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	53.89	42	
Amer Century Inv: Ultra Fidelity Spartan: Egldx	28.71 41.85	16 26	-2.7 -2.4
Putnam Funds A: GrinA o	18.96	12	-2.4
Fidelity Invest: A Mor	16.01	04	-1.2
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	32.56	17	4.7
AIM Investments A: Const p	22.08	10	-3.3
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.12	+.01	1
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	34.12	03	-3.6
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT Fidelity Advisor T: EaInT	29.71 27.60	21 15	-2.7 -2.3
Scudder Funds S: GroineS	21.40	-11	-2.3
Putnam Funds A: GlbEpty p	8.26	02	-2.2
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.68	06	-2.8
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.48	06	-2.6
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	26.27 43.03	09	-1.6
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	17.11	+.02	-2.8 -3.7
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	14.94	13	-5.7
Scudder Funds St Income S	12.99	+.01	-1
Merrill Lynch I: USGytMto	10.26		-
Scudder Funds S: Devel	18.93	- 07	-2.9

EXCHANGE RATES

South Korean won (Jan. 12)	1.019.0
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.877
Canada (Dollar)	1.21
Denmark (Krone)	5.3
Egypt (Pound)	5.954
Eŭro\$1	.3123/0.76
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.795
Hungary (Forint)	188.4
Iceland (Krona)	63.02
Israel (Shekel)	4.368
Japan (Yen)	103.2
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	5.8
Philippines (Peso)	56.0
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.5
Singapore (Dollar)	1.642
South Korea (Won)	1,045.0
Switzerland (Franc)	1.1
Thailand (Baht)	39.1
Turkey (New Lira)	1.380
(Military exchange rates	are thos
available to customers at mil	itary bank
ing facilities in the country of	
for Japan, South Korea, Ger	many, th

heriands and the United Kingdom, nonlocal currency exchange rates purchasing British pounds in Germacheck with your local millitary bank-lacility. Commercial rates are inter-five rates provided for reference when no currency. All figures are foreign encies to one dollar, except for the share your work of the proposed of the proposed with the proposed of the propos

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	25
Discount rate3.	25
Federal funds market rate2.	25
3-month bill2	36
30-year bond4.	78
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank	of

ents and Sensibility

Look at municipal bonds

Knight Ridder/Tribune

Municipal bonds are one way that state and local governments raise money for public-service projects. This type of bond also provides a good opportunity for a bit of tax-free earning for investors. If you would like to learn more about municipal bonds, here are a

- few good Web sites with insights about the subject: ■ Bondsonline (www.bondsonline.com/asp/muni/igtaxfree.asp) discusses how tax-free municipal bonds work
- E-Muni (www.emuni.com/glossary.html) provides a useful glossary of municipal bond terms, without the jargon.
- Soundinvesting.org (www.soundinvesting.org/sbonds.html) covers all types of bonds, with special focus on municipals.
- TheStre et.com (www.thestreet.com/basics/schoolhouse/ 415212.html) includes an article about tax considerations related to municipal bonds.
- TurboTax (www.turbotax.com/articles/TaxBenefitsofInvest inginMunicipalBonds.html) offers a good overview about municipal bonds, with pros and cons.



50/27



TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOO

Kuwait City

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

Hyderabad

86/57





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

There's the opportunity to embody the very quality you want to possess. Grace, maturity and even majesty can be accomplished simply, naturally and **Holiday Mathis** without resistance. As the sun and Saturn engage in an enlightening conversation, you can powerfully assimilate recent lessons.

Model a desired character trait, and you'll become it. TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 13). You'll get validation this year from your family, your peers and your community at large. Career happenings in

February are remarkable. When you think you're through, something happens to take your project to the next level. Love is fabulous with a Cancer or Leo. For couples, the idea of building a better home with the one you love is an aphrodisiac

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The lessons of the day are of the

Zen variety - deliberately irrational occurrences that will jar you into realizing the limits of your thinking What an experience. You drift off to sleep tonight to the sound of one hand clapping

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

Your grandiose mission will be reduced to something menial - like standing in line at the post office or delivering coffee. It's all an important part of the plan, so don't worry that you might be wasting your time.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You do know how to bring the goods, Still, don't go all smarty-pants on your co-workers or boss. They're likely to get annoved by your overachieving tendencies. Play it humble. Anyone with half a brain knows vou're great

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

The stars provide a kind of security check list. You'll be asking yourself hard questions, especially regarding your finances. It's simple, really. The more you do for others, the better you are compensated.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Be the total individual today, not at all influenced by the usual onslaught of

advertising and corporate brainwashing you encounter. You don't need a media spectacle to show you what you want out of life

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you think about your social

life, there are definite rungs of friendship people must go through to get close to you. You don't answer the phone to just anybody. Somebody jumps from a lower rung

to a higher one today. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The art of deception is featured, and you're alarmingly good at

it. Your intention is not to harm the other person. but you sure wouldn't mind if they thought something

different about you than was actually SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

true.

An idea you once cynically dismissed is now on your hot track You have the ability to see controver sial issues from all sides, but others have a hard time abandoning their strong points of view

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Being regimented is overrated. Besides, your curiosity takes you in a fascinating direction. Like Alice down the rabbit hole, you're not sure where you're headed, but you find a wonderland if you just keep going.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). You're the center of attention, even though you don't feel as fabulous as others see you. If only you could see yourself as others do you'd give yourself a big hug and a few words of encouragement

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Mistakes happen, and you're adept at blowing past them in favor of focusing on the good. But there's a persistent error that deserves your attention. Rectifying it will bring an influx of good fortune to your world.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Lois

and

Bailey

The stars grant you abundant charisma. All you have to do is wave your hand, and people come running. Please remember to use your pow ers for good and not evil, though it's tempting to toy with others.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts

























SO IN THE NEXT

PANEL. DOPE! DAD YELLS, "IT'S BED-TIME FOR YOU,

WE HAVE TO GO

AND GET SOME

BACK TO MARYKAND

RIGHT NOW.

ONE PRINCESS, FORR DRAMA QUEENS

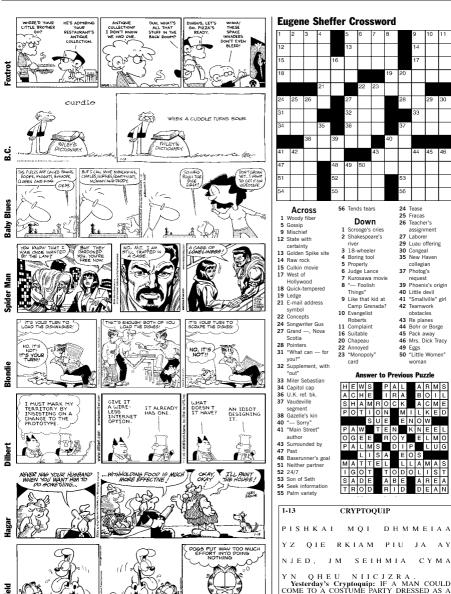
I NEED ACRYLICS!

I NEED HIGHLIGHTS

MORE MOTIVATING

HEE HEE!

PAGE 22 · STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION · Thursday, January 13, 2005



Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A MAN COULD COME TO A COSTUME PARTY DRESSED AS A KNIFE, HE'D LOOK REALLY SHARP. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals R

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Yesterday I found

Saying 'I love you' not competition

Dear Abby: "Confused in Quito, Ecuador" complained that when she says, "I love you," her boyfriend's response is, "I love you more." She asked what made him feel he had to "best" her in this. Please let her know it's possible he's only repeating an endearment that means. "My love for you is so immense it has no

bounds I'd bet my next paycheck that the young man has no intention of trying to "top" her, but instead feels he's giving her the highest compliment he can.

- Ruth in Brandon, Miss. Dear Ruth: I agree. However, you would not believe the letters and e-mails that "Confused's" question gener-

Dear Abby: "Confused" shouldn't be offended. I have a 10-year-old son, and that is one

ated! Read on:

of our standard routines at bedtime. We always tell each other we love each other when we kiss goodnight. The fun is seeing who can tell the other that we love each other more, until finally one of us says, "I love you more than anyone can love anyone in the

whole wide world." Please urge "Con-fused" not to make a competition out of it, and just enjoy the fact that he "loves her more.

 Loved in Minnesota Dear Loved: My mail indicates that the "I love you more" game is a tradition in many families

Dear Abby: "Confused" should listen to her in-

If her boyfriend feels the need to compete with her and "win" in other areas, too, it could be a warning sign of a notential abuser. When I was a domestic violence advocate, this was one of

the "little" signs we told clients to watch out for.

- Sherri in West Virginia Dear Sherri: Thank you for lending another point of view.

Dear Abby: I hope "Confused" ends her relationship with that young man and allows him the freedom to find someone who truly appreciates him, Shortly before my daughter's wedding, she and her fiance were in her car driving home when she said, "I love you." He replied, "I love you more." Thus was born the theme for their wedding.

They had their wedding bands engraved with the phrase, and I embroidered it on the ring bearer's pillow. Two children later they're still saying it and blissfully happy.

— Joan in Watkinsville, Ga. Dear Joan: What a beautiful way to memorialize a wedding ceremony.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can writ to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words RINED



MERCOH

BOAMEA

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon THE ! (Answers tomorrow)

WHAT THE BARBER

DID ON VACATION.

Now arrange the circled letters to

TRIPE SUPERB FALLOW Answer When her purse was snatched, the tumpike oasis became a -- "WREST" STOP

Dear Abby

Wife, stepson barely bearable

Dear Annie: When I married "Martha," a single mother I joked about finally getting the son and daughter I've always wanted. About three years into our mar riage, my "son" appeared in the form of a 30-year-old smoker who stinks from his cigarettes and whatever cologne he uses as a substitute for hathing

Martha asked me to let "Mitchell" stay until he got back on his feet, and I assumed she meant a few months. We now are running a filthy flophouse so Mitchell can save on rent, buy gadgets for his motorcycle and feed his nicotine addiction. He sleeps most of the day and parties

We subsidize Mitchell's never-ending cell phone calls, cigarettes, women and hobbies by giving him room and board. He does buy most of his own food, but I resent being his scullery

maid and garbage man. Now Martha wants to move closer to her daughter



Meanwhile, I finally have a job I love and don't want to move. I know I owe Martha plenty, but lately, our marriage consists of eating in front of the television. To make things worse, Martha neglects her health, is badly overweight, has terrible halitosis from poor oral hygiene, and I have only a vague mem

ory of sex Martha says Mitchell is moving in with his latest lover, but the move better come with a "no return" policy. Thanks for letting

_ At Wite' End in North Carolina

Dear At Wits' End: Glad to lend an ear, but it doesn't seem enough

Please consider marriage counseling. You have mentioned several problems that need extensive and ongoing work. If Martha won't go with you for counseling, go without her

Dear Annie: I have never

been one to deny anyone the right to smoke, as long as it doesn't interfere with my right to breathe.

However, upon my return from a recent vacation at the beautiful beaches of Georgia, I'm prompted to ask smokers a question: What makes you think the world is your ashtray? Why do so many smokers throw their lit cigarettes out of car windows or flick them onto the ground? Do they think someone walks behind them to clean up these little treasures? It's a crime to be in a beautiful spot like those beaches on Jekyll Island and come across

cigarette butts in the sand. - Louisville, Ky. Dear Louisville: Most smokers try very hard to be considerate of others and the environment, but there are always a few who don't care or don't think.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, C/o Creators Syndicate, 577 W. Century Blvd., Sulte 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



"Harmony is when you find two notes that love one another."

GRAFFITI THERE'S NOEXCUSE WORKING WERKING ON IT



"MR WILSON SAYS KIDS LIKE ME ARE A DIME A TOZEN. DON'T YOU THINK WE CAN AFFORD A COUPLE BROTHERS FOR MER"



"Rise and shine, everyone! ... It's day and we're all going to the w



The FIRST UNDERSTUDY TO SECURE THE SECURE AND THE SECURE AND THE SECURE ASSESSMENT AND THE SECURE ASSESSMENT ASSESSMENT

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Kansas at lowa St. (dld). Kansas at Iowa St. (dld).

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball:
Texas-El Paso at Nevada (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—NBA: L.A. Lakers at
Denver (dld).

AFN-Sports, 6:30 p.m.—NBA: Houston at
Dallas (dld).

Friday AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Duke at North Carolina St. AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—Auto racing: Paris-Dakar Rally (did), AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.—NBA: New Jersey at Houston. AFN-Atlantic, 3 .m.—College basketball: APN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College baskerball:
Marquette al Hemphis.
Marquette al Hemphis.
All Lakers, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Cleveland at
Li. Lakers, 9 a.m.—Golf: Sony Open, first round (30).
APN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Sony Open, first ball: Duke at North Carolina St. (did).
APN-Sports, 2:30 p.m.—College basketball:
UCA at Arizona St. (did).
APN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—College basketball:
Oregon St. at Washington St. (did).

All times are Central European Time; did in-dicated delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

AP Men's Top 25 fared
Timetay
1, Illinois (16-9) did not play, Next vs. Pen
3, Illinois (16-9) did not play, Next vs. Pen
3, Amasa (11-9) did not play, Next vs. Pen
3, Illinois (16-9) did not play, Next at Iowa
3, Illinois (16-9) did not play, Next at Iowa
1, No. 8 Georpia (16-1) did not play, Next at
6, Dest vs. No. 3 North Carolina, Saturday,
1, Oralinois (16-1) did not play, Next at
8, Despis (16-1) did not play, Next at
1, September (16-1) did not play,
1, September (16-1) di 15. Michigan State (10-2) did not play. Next: at Wisconsin, Sunday. 16. Gonzaga (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Loyola Marymount, Thyrsday. 17. Arizona (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Southern California, Thursday. 18. Cincinnati (13-1) did not play. Next: at East Carolina, Wednesday. 19. Louisville (13-3) beat Southern Missis-ippi 107-62. Next: at No. 18 Cincinnati, Saturday. Pittsburgh (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Seton Hall, Saturday. 21. George Washington (10-2) did not play. Next: at S. Bonaventure, Wednesday. 22. Marquette (13-1) did not play. Next: at Memphis, Thursday. Memphis, Thursday. 23. Alabama (13-3) beat Arkansas 64-61. Next: vs. No. 11 Mississippi State, Tuesday. 24. lowa (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Min-Next: vs. No. 11 Mississippi state, ruessay. 24. Iowa (12-3) did not play. Next: vs. Min-nesota, Saturday. 25. Oklahoma (12-2) did not play. Next: at

Tuesday's men's scores

Tuesday's men's scores

Abright S, Widener S4

Americat S, Weldener S, We Potsdam 73, Utica Tech 55 Ramapo 75, William Paterson 63 Rhode Island Coll. 70, S. Maine 58 S. New Hampshire 87, 5t. Michael's 78 St. Rose 77, S. Connecticut 70 St. Vincent 83, Seton Hill 70 Stonehill 85, Assumption 70 Swarthmore 65, McDaniel 62 Swarthmore 65, McDaniel 62 Union, N.Y. 80, Skidmore 75 Ursinus 90, Dickinson 68 Utica 70, Oneonta 60 Villanova 83, Providence 78, OT W. Connecticut 73, Keene St. 63 Wheaton, Mass. 81, Springfield 78 Worcester St. 73, Fitchburg St. 65

Worcester St. 73, Fitchburg St. 65 Brescla 59, Campbellsville 57 Davidson 66, Appalachian St. 63 Florida Guif Coast 67, Lynn 65 Florida Guif Coast 67, Lynn 65 Georgetown, Ry. 124, Miami (Ohio)-Mid 56 JackSorville 82, Florida Atlantic 81 Kentucky Christian 97, Circleville Bible 67 Kentucky St. 75, Fort Valley St. 56

Lambuth 70, Trevecca Nazarene 69 Louisville 107, Southern Miss, 62 Louisville 107, Southern Miss. 62 Marshall 99, West Virginia 55 Milligan 85, Bryan 84 SE Louislana 56, Sam Houston St. 54 Stillman 67, LeMoyne 58 UC-Clermont 99, N. Kentucky 72 UCF 70, Stetson 66 Virginia Union 98, Fayetteville St. 79

Wake Forest 81, Maryland 66 MIDWEST Carroll, Wis. 79, Ripon 73 Cedarville 104, Urbana 72 Cent. Iowa 81, Dubuque 73 Ferris St. 82, Hillsdale 69 Huntington 82, Spring Arbor 64 Knox 73, Illinois College 70 Loras 78, Simpson, Iowa 59 Luther 70, Cornell, Iowa 67 Midland Lutheran 83, Bellev Liddler A. Lowest Beware St. Monomouth, III, II. Grignnell 199 800 Grande 71, Wilberforce St. St. Morenauth, III. II. Grignnell 199 800 Grande 71, Wilberforce St. St. Morenauth, III. III. Grignnell 199 800 Grande 71, Wilberforce St. St. American 199, II. Grignnell 199, III. Grignnell 1

Houston 93, Centenary 82 Oklahoma St. 78, Missouri 68 FAR WEST BYU 110, Montana St.-Billings St. Mary's, Cal. 59, Air Force 58 Utah Valley St. 73, Texas-Pan / EXHIBITION Minn.-Duluth 80, Finlandia 69

AP Women's Top 25 fared Tuesday 1. Duke (15-1) did not play. Next: at Virgin-

ia, Friday.

 Baylor (12-1) did not play. Next: at Nebraska, Wednesday.
 LSU (14-1) did not play. Next: at Florida, Thursday.**

John Stephenson, 11-2) beat Pittsburgh 68-41.

A. Rutgers (11-2) beat Pittsburgh 68-41.

Next vs. Georgetown, Thursday.

5. Ohio State (15-2) beat Michigan 84-56.

Next vs. No, 21 lowa, Thursday.

6. Stanford (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cal
flornia, Thursday.

7. Notre Bane (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 16 Connecticut, Wednesday, 8. Tennessee (10-3) did not play. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday, 9. Michigan State (13-2) did not play. Next: Arkansas, Thurdday,

Arkansas, Thurdday,

By Michigan State (11,2) did not play, Next
By Michigan (11,2) did not play, Next
By 20. Purdius (10-4) did not play. Next: vs. No. 11. Minnesota, Thursday. 21. Lowa (13-2) did not play. Next: at No. 50. 21. Lowa (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. East Carolina, Friday. 22. DePaul (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. East Carolina, Friday. 24. Lowa State (11-3) beat Missouri 24. Koras State (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas, Wednesday. 25. Virginia Tech (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. Nortff Carolina State, Monday.

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST American International 63, Bentley 58 Amherst 69, W. New England 43 Bates 74, Maine-Farmington 59 Bridgewater, Mass. 73, Westfield St. 38 Cenf. Connecticut St. 62, Monmouth, N.J. 55 Coast Guard 66, Babson 57 Cortland St. 61, Buffalo St. 58 Dickinson 66, Ursinus 63 Dominican, N.Y. 73, Georgian Court 57 Franklin & Marshall 57, Swarthmore 45 Franklin 8: Marshall 57, Swarthmore Franklin Pierce 54, St. Ansylvania, St. Geneva 64, Point Park 46 Gettysburg 74, Washington, Md. 47 Ithaca 85, Elmira 74, Washington, Md. 47 Johns Hopkins 88, Haverford 49 Keene St. 58, W. Connecticut 47 Marshall 82, West Virginia 76 Mass.-Boston 85, Pythouth St. 79 Mass.-Boston 85, Pythouth St. 79 McDaniel 80, Bryn Mawr 54 Merrimack 71, Bryant 61 errindex 71, Brydnt 61 olloy 62, Queens Coll. 61 ount Holyoke 57, Clark U. 51 J. Tech 70, Caldwell 52 Y. Tech 71, C.W. Post 57

TANK MCNAMARA

RUDE GAMEZ

New Hampshire 60, Maine 57 New Paltz 72, Vassar 64, 30T New Pattz 77, Vassar 64, 301
Oswep St. 65, Plattsburgh 34
Post, Conn. 56, Bloomfield 48
Outniplac 75, St. Francis, Pa. 69
Rochester 64, Rochester 1ech 38
Rochester 64, St. Michael 55
Salva Regina 77, Curry 64
Seton Hill 73, St. Vinicent 61
Seton Hill 73, St. Vinicent 61 Seton Hill 73, St. Vincent 61 Simmons 49, Wentworth Tech 44 Union, N.Y. 44, Skidmore 23 Utica 102, S. Vermont 45 Utica Tech 54, Potsdam 53 Waynesburg 62, Carnegie-Mellon 54 Wellesley 64, Wheaton, Mass. 58 Wesleyan, Conn. 61, Albertus Magnus 42 Wesleyan, Conn. 61, Albertus Magnus 42 Westminster, Pa. 70, La Roche 42 William Paterson 74, Ramapo 58 William 83, Hamilton 66

rmingham-Southern 83, Sewanee 46 van 69, Milligan 58 simingham Southers 83, Sewanee 46
Southers 83, Sewanee 46
E Mennonite 67, Hollins 59
Emory & Henry 88, Averet 18
Fayetteville St. 71, Virginia Union 59
Fayetteville St. 71, Virginia 43
Roanoke 68, Washington & Lee 54
Roanoke 68, Washington & Lee 54
Washington & Lefferson 68. Thomas More Shaw 112, Elizabeth City St. 62 Washington & Jefferson 66, Th MIDWEST Buena Vista 84, Wartburg 78

Buena Vista 84, Wartburg 78 Capital 58, Heidelberg 48 Cedarville 86, Urbana 77 Concordia, Wis. 83, Alverno 47 Doane 87, Dana 50 Edgewood 63, Marian, Wis. 60 Eureka 66, Dominican, III. 64 Ferris St. 79, Hillidale 65 Dilio St. 84, Michigan 56 Dlivet Nazarene 105, Purdue-Calumet 43 Peru St. 84, Park 80 Rio Grande 80, Wilberforce 71 Ripon 79, Carroll, Wis. 51 Ripon 79, Carroll, Wis. 51 Rockford 88, Concordia, Ill. 55 SF Missouri 87, E. Illinois 70 Shawnee St. 84, Ohio Domin Shawnee St. 84, Ohio Domin Simpson, Iowa 57, Loras 56 W. Illinois 58, UMKC 40 ican 64 sh 75, Malone 64 saton, III. 73, North Central 49 SOUTHWEST SOUTHWEST S. Utah 49, Oral Roberts 43 Texas-Pan American 58, Prairie View 55 FAR WEST Oregon Tech 86, 50, Oregon 62 Vanguard 93, Westmont 78

Tennis

Medihank International

Wetundam, miter itelutures

At The Syndy Wednesday

Person and the Sydray Assistable

Person and Sydray Assistable

Person and Sydray Assistable

Person and Sydray Assistable

Surface Hand-Outdoor

Wayne Arthurs, Australia, F. 6 (J. 6-1, Women Swines Swines Swines And Swines S

lar-hinds@tankmonamara.com

- MILLAR/HUDS

OK IF THE NEL WON'T

OK, IF THE NFL WON! RENEW OUR LICENSE FOR "NFL PLAYAHS," WE'LL JUST RENAME THE PRODUCT "PRO FOOTBALL PLAYAHS."

Mahesh Bhupathi, India, and Todd Wood-bridge (3), Australia, def. Mardy Fish and Brian MacPhie, United States, 6-2, 6-3. Women Quarterfinals Maria Kirilenko and Anastasiya Yakimova,

Maria Kirilenko and Anastasiya Yakimova, Russala, def. Janet Lee, Taiwan, and Peng Russala, def. Janet Lee, Taiwan, and Peng Conjehiba Marinera and Virginia Busan Pas-cual (2), Spain, def. Liezel Huber, South Africa Bena Dementieva, Russala, and 41 Sugiyama (3), Japan, def. Flavia, Pennetta and Bryanne Stewart and Samplaha Stosur, Australia, def. Bet Sekulovski and Cindy Watson, Australia, 63-4, 69-5

Kooyong Classic

Wednesday
At Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club
Mélbourne, Australia
Purse: Exhibition
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Andre Agassi, Fist Round

Andre Agassi, Fist Round

Massu, Chile, 6-1, 7-6 (4), 20tes, def. Nicolas

Massu, Chile, 6-1, 7-6 (4), 20tes, def. Nicolas

Roger Federer, Switzerland, def. Gaston

Gaudio, Argentina, 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, 4 Nibandiantherinan, Britain, def. David Nalbandiandri Marchand Roddisk, United States, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 6-1, 6-4.

Heineken Open Wednesday At ASB Bank Tennis Centre Auckland, New Zealand Purse: \$426,000 (Intl. Series Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Second Round

Significano Const. (1), Aggrafina, det. Cyril College (1), Aggrafina, det. Determine (1), Aggrafina, det. Determine (1), Aggrafina, det. Alberto (1), Aggrafina, det. Alberto (1), Aggrafina, det. Alberto (1), Aggrafina, det. Aggra

(5). Jartin Garcia and Mariano Hood (4), Ar-tina, def. Juan Ignacio Chela and Sebas-n Prieto, Argentina, 6-7 (11), 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Moorilla International

Wednesday
At The Domain Tennis Centre
Hobart, Australia
Purse: \$110,000 (Tier V)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
g Jie, China, def. Klara Koukalo
Republic, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Quartermana Zheng Jie, China, def. Klara Koukalova (8), Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2. Iveta Benesova (3), Czech Republic, def. Nicole Valdisova, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-4, Nicole Valdisova, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-4, £1 Na. China, def. Marta Domachowska, Po-16 1-3 16, 6-1 Glisch Dulko (2), Argentina, def. Kveta Pe-schke, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Doubles Jill Craybas and Laura Graville (3), United

Jili Craybas and Laura Granville (3), United tates, def. Barbora Strycova, Czech Repub-c, and Jasmin Woehr, Germany, 6-4, 7-6 (3). Yan Zi and Zheng Jie (1), China, def, Casey ellacqua and Nicole Sewell, Australia, 6-2. 6-1. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Di-nara Safina (2), Russia, def. Kristina Brandi, Puerto Rico, and Kim Grant. South Africa.

7-5, 6-4. Alina Jidkova, Russia, and Tatiana Perebly-nis, Ukraine, def. Iveta Benesova and Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, 7-5, 7-5.

Canberra Women's Classic Wednesday At The National Sports Club Canberra, Australia Purse: \$110,000 (Tier V) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Second Round edak, Ukraine, def. Tamarine Ta

Yuliana Fedak, Ukraine, def. Tamarine Ta-nasugarn, Thailand, 6-2, 7-6 (6). Melinda Czink, Hungary, def. Anna Smash-nova (2), Israel, 6-2, 6-1. Silvia Farina Elia (1), Italy, def. Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, 6-2, 6-3.

WITH NO LEAGUE "CONTENT APPROVALS" TO RESTRICT US, WE CAN PUT IN WHAT MAKES A FOOTBALL VIDEO GAME REALT PLN: SUBSTANCE ARISE PIRTY HITS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, EXCESSIVE CELEBRATIONS, WARDROOM MALFUNCTIONS.

IT'S LIKE A GREAT WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED OFF OUR ARTISTIC FREEDOMS.

Lindezy Lec-Visioere, Unified States, def. Amilios Kanors, humanyar, 45, 7-5, 8-7, Marrion Bartoli (d), Fenoz, def. Michaelia Andarios Kanors, et al. (d), Fenoz, def. Michaelia Andarios Vanorsio, Serbial-Montenegro, def. Evie Dominikovic, Serbial-Montenegro, def. Evie Dominikovic, Serbial-Montenegro, def. Evie Dominikovic, Serbial-Montenegro, Caracteriala, 5-7, 6-3, 6-4. Australia, def. Emma Laine, Finland, and Anthrei Moseria, Germany, 6-5, 4-5, Krizan (3), Slovenia, def. Arantxa Parra Santronis, Spain, and Anthreilia Serra Zaretti, 1481, 4-6, 6-3, and anthreilia Ser 6-2. Gabriela Navratilova and Michaela Pastikova (4), Czech Republic, def. Leanne Baker, New Zealand, and Francesca Lubiani, Italy, 2-6, 6-1, 7-6 (6). Marion Bartoli, France, and Anna-Lena Groenefeld (1), Germany, def. Liga Dek. meljere, Latvuk, and Nana Miyagi, Japan, 6-4,

Skiing Women's World Cup

Wednesday At Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy Super-G 1. Renate Goetschi, Austria, 1 minute, 15.57 econds.

second and the second s

8. Andrea Fischbacher, Austria, 116.36.
Week and Websiltzer, Austria, 116.36.
Overall World Cup Standings
Overall Standings

9. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 358.

10. Martina Ertl, Germany, 327.

World Cup Super-G Standings (After four races)

1. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 215.

2. Lindsey, Kildow, United States, 210.

3. Renate Goetschi, Austria, 209.

4. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 190.

5. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 154.

Deals

Tuesday's transactions RASERALI

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms
ith RHP James Baldwin on a minor league ontract. CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms with OF Juan Gonzalez on a minor league

ontract.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with LHP Randy Johnson on a two-year conract extension through 2007.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Agreed to terms with LHP Scott Schoenewels on a two-year contract. ontract.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Traded LHP

Randy Johnson to the New York Yankees for RHP Javier Vasquez, LHP Brad Halsey, C Dion-er Navarro and Sp million. Traded Navarro, RHP William Juarez, RHP Danny Muegog and RHP Beltran Perez to Los Angeles for OF RHP Bettran Petez to LOS Mugeres for or Shawn Green and \$10 million, HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with 3B Mike Lamb on a one-year contract. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Derek Lowe on a four-year con-tract.

tract.

NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with
OF Carlos Beltran on a seven-year contract
and with RHP Philip Humber on a five-year PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Terry Adams on a one-year con-

National Baskethall Association
CHARLOTE BOBCATS—Blaced F Thero
Smith on the injured list. Activated G Bernard Robinson from the injured list.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Placed F
Keth Van Horn from the injured list.
Activated F
Keth Van Horn from the injured list.
KEW_EKSEY_NETS—Signed F Kanlel DickKEW_EKSEY_NETS—Signed F Kanlel Dickns to a 10-day contract.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Activated G Jamison

Brewer from the injured list.

American Basketball Association

LOS ANGELES STARS—Announced the res-

LOS ANGELES STARS—Announced the res-ignation of Burell Lee, coach, Named DeL-isha Milton-Jones interim coach. FOOTBALL National Football League CAROLINA PANTHERS—Named Danny Crossman special teams coach. MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed LS William Dela-milami DolPHINS—Signed LS William Dela-

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed LS William Dela-houssaye, De Ronald Flemons, WR James Newson, OT Tony Pape, S Ricky Sharpe, G Jamil Sorjano, LB Winston Taylor and DE Mat-thew Walters. NEW YORK JETS—Signed TE Matt Chila, QB Kevin Eakin, DB D.J. Johnson, DE Radell Lock-hart, LB Ryan Myers and OT Charles Thomas to future NFL contracts.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS—Fired
Michaels, special teams coach.

Michaels, special teams coach.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
CHICAGO FIRE—Announced MF John Thorington was allocated to the team.
COLORADO RAPIDS—Named John Murphy

COLLEGE

ssistant coach. COLLEG
COLORADO STATE—Announced sopho-nore men's basketball of Dwight Bodhere fet the team for personal reasons.
DUKE—Suspended junior women's basket-all G Lindsy Harding for the remainder of KENTUCKY—Announced freshman men's asketball of De Crawford left school and

o the men's basketball team. SYRACUSE—Named Greg Robinson football coach.
TENNESSEE STATE—Named James Web-

Oklahoma State's Sutton ties mentor Iba with win No. 767

STILLWATER, Okla. - Even after a milestone victory, Eddie Sutton was preaching defense. Henry Iba taught him well.

Sutton tied his mentor for seventh in career coaching victories when No. 6 Oklahoma State beat Missouri 78-68 on Tuesday night.

"The basis of the way he taught the game was defense is a stabiliz-Sutton said of Tha "It's a thing that on a night when you're not shooting the ball well, if your defense will hold up, maybe there will come a time when you get some momentum.

"If you don't play defense, all of a sudden you get blown away early and you're out of the game

Joey Graham scored a sea-son-high 27 points and John Lucas added 18 for the Cowboys (12-1, 2-0 Big 12), who held Missouri to 38 percent shooting from

Sutton improved to 767-293 in his career, which included stints at Creighton, Arkansas and Kentucky before he returned to his alma mater in 1990.

"Mr. Iba would be thrilled be-

Top 25

teacher, and I think the greatest credit that can be given is when some-

body that you coached or taught Sutton said.

In all 12 of its wins this season, Oklahoma State has held its opponent under 50 nercent shooting It's a staple of Sutton's teams that can be traced back to the 1950s when he played and later coached under Iba.

The Cowboys held Missouri without a field goal for 5 minutes and broke open a close game with a late 14-4 run.

Kleiza scored 24 points to lead the Tigers, who were 8-for-21 from three-point range. Kleiza was 13-for-13 from the foul line and fought off endless boos following an early technical foul. His tough inside play helped cause two Oklahoma State defenders to foul out

Sutton will try to pass Iba on Saturday when the Cowboys play Iowa State. Iba was 767-338 in 41 seasons. He spent 36 years in Still-

two NCAA championships in 1945 and 1946 when it was still known as Oklahoma A&M. He died in 1993

No. 4 Wake Forest 81, Mary land 66: Justin Gray scored 25 points, including a season-high

six three-pointers, and the Demon Deacons (14-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) cruised to the home victory. Gray was coming off a 31-point performance against Clemson over the week-

Caner-Medley had 18 points for the Terrapins (9-4, 1-2), who were coming off a 36-point loss at No. 3 North Carolina.

No. 19 Louisville 107. Southern Miss 62: Francisco Garcia had 25 points to lead the Cardinals (13-3, 2-1 Conference USA), who led by as many as 48 points and shot 57 percent from the

Rashaad Carruth had a career-high 25 points for the Golden Eagles (9.6 0.3) in the worst home loss in school history.

Southern Mississippi has lost four straight.



Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton, above, tied his mentor Henry Iba for seventh place on the career victories list Tuesday night as the Cowboys defeated Missouri 78-68 in Stillwater, Okla.

No. 23 Alabama 64, Arkansas 61: Earnest Shelton scored 18 points and Kennedy Winston had nine of his 13 in the second half to lead the Crimson Tide (13-3, 2-1 Southern Conference) to the road win. Winston made one of two free throws with 9.8 seconds left to give Alabama a three-point lead and Eric Ferguson missed an open three-pointer with 2 seconds left that could have tied the

Ronnie Brewer had 15 points for the Razorbacks (13-3, 1-2).

St. Mary's holds off Air Force

MORAGA, Calif. - Brett Collins scored 15 points and Saint Mary's overcame a poor shooting nd half Tuesday night to hold off Air Force and win its ninth straight game, 59-58. The Gaels (15-4), coming off a

big victory over Gonzaga last Saturday, never trailed after scoring the game's first nine points

But they almost blew a 13-point halftime lead, scoring only 19 points in the second half. Saint Mary's shot only 5-for-14 from the field and 9-for-18 from the foul line after halftime.

Jason Walberg missed two free throws with 24.5 seconds remain-ing, giving Air Force (10-6) a chance to win. Matt McGraw missed a jumper, but Nick Welch retained the ball for Air Force in a wild scramble for the ball. He launched a last-second air ball at-tempt while falling near the free-throw line as time ran out.
Paul Marginey added 13 points

for the Gaels and E.J. Rowland scored 10

McGraw led Air Force with 17 oints. Tim Keller and Antoine Hood chipped in 12 apiece.

Drawn-out baseball deals finally are finished geles finalized its \$36 million

The Associated Press

YORK NEW Randy Johnson, Carlos Beltran, Shawn Green, Derek Lowe, Javier Vazquez and Juan Gonzalez finally got to their new teams following weeks of negotiations

Dioner Navarro, a 20-year-old catcher with seven major league at-bats, even got traded twice Tuesday

On a day when the Mets and Yankees combined for a news conference doubleheader, baseball dominated the New York sports scene, even with the Jets getting ready for their matchup with Pittsburgh in the NFL playoffs. In the morning at Shea Stadi

the Mets announced their \$119 million, seven-year contract with center fielder Carlos Beltran, the 10th deal in baseball history worth \$100 million or more The new-look Mets have added three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez and might try to sign Carlos Delgado.

Three hours later, the Yankees introduced Johnson, a five-time Cy Young Award winner, after acquiring him from Arizona for Vazquez, Navarro, pitcher Brad Halsey and \$9 million. The Big Unit, who got a \$32 million, two-year contract extension through 2007, quickly apologized for getting into a sidewalk confrontation with a television cameraman en route to his physical the previous day.

"It was unprofessional and, obviously, I feel very foolish today, at such a great moment in my ca reer, that I would have to sit be-

fore all of you, or stand before all you, and apologize for my actions," he said. Arizona then dealt Navarro and

right-handers William Juarez, Danny Muegge and Beltran Perez to Los Angeles for Green and \$10 million.

Green got a \$32 million, three-year contract from the Diamondbacks. He has a .314 average and .629 slugging percentage at Bank One Ballnark with 14 homers and 40 RBIs in 175 at-bats, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Arizona planned more moves

The Diamondbacks agreed with left-hander Shawn Estes on a \$2.5 million, one-year contract and were close to trading Shea Hillenbrand to the Toronto Blue Jays After shedding Green, Los An-

contract right-hander Derek Lowe, the winner for Boston in the final game of all three of its postseason series as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 year Gonzalez, a two-time AL MVP

four-year

with Texas, finalized a minor league deal with Cleveland. The 35-year-old outfielder has 434 homers but played in only 33 games last year with Kansas City, batting .276 with five homers and 17 RRIs Toronto agreed to a \$5.2 mil-

lion, two-year contract with left-hander Scott Schoeneweis, Philadelphia agreed to a \$500,000, one-year contract with right-hander Terry Adams and Baltimore agreed to a minor league deal with right-hander James Baldwin



After weeks of negotiations, Randy Johnson finally made his first appearance in New York Yankees pinstripes Tuesday.

Don King files \$2.5 billion defamation suit over ESPN segment The Associated Press trian skier Hans Knauss was tembegin Jan. 28 and run through clear Hans of cheating on the one

NEW YORK — Boxing promot-er Don King filed a \$2.5 billion defamation suit Wednesday, claiming he was portraved in a false light on an ESPN "Sports-Century" segment aired last May. The suit, filed in state court in

Broward County, Fla., names ESPN, ABC Cable Networks, Advocate Communications and Disnev as defendants, claiming King was falsely portraved as "a con artist and a thug." "This case is one of the worst

examples of reckless broadcast journalism and blatant disregard for the truth," lawyer Willie Gary said

The flamboyant promoter, who

Sports

ed fighters from Muham-Ali to mad Tyson, Mike has spent much of his career in court.

He settled a lawsuit for \$7.5 million with former middleweight champion Terry Norris in late 2003 and still faces a \$100 million lawsuit filed against him by Tyson

King also has beaten federal charges, including tax evasion and fraud.

Austrian skier Knauss suspended for steroid use WENGEN Switzerland - Ausporarily suspended Wednesday for steroid use and could be banned for two years. Knauss tested positive for nan-

drolone following his fourth-place finish in a World Cup downhill in Lake Louise, Al-His backup sample also was

nositive the international federation said

Under international rules, athletes found guilty of using steroids face a two-year ban. Such a penalty most likely would end the 33-year-old skier's career. Knauss has won seven races in his 14 years on the World Cup circuit and wants to compete in the

world championships, which

Feb. 13. Sarah Lewis, secretary general

of the ski federation (FIS), said Knauss has three options - accept the suspension, submit a written defense to the federation's doping panel or request a personal hearing.

A hearing for Knauss has been scheduled by FIS between Feb. 16 and 18 in Oberstdorf, Germany, said Christian Flick, the ski-'s legal adviser. But Lewis said Knauss could request an expedited process so the case would be settled before the worlds in Bormio, Italy. However, this would preclude the option of a personal

hearing. "Our main goal must be to hand, and on the other hand give him a chance to return to the slopes as soon as possible," Flick

Knauss contends supplements he took were tainted with nandrolone, which was not listed as an ingredient on the container.

There have been few doping cases in Alpine skiing. France's Christelle Guignard was stripped of her bronze medal in giant slalom from the 1989 world championships for a positive test. More recently, Britain's Alain Baxter lost his 2002 Olympic slalom

bronze medal after testing positive for the banned stimulant.

Miami showing ACC it can play

BY STEVEN WINE The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The pep band blared brassy tunes, the student section rode the officials and the public address announcer bellowed after each basket, creating a din that reached the cheap seats.

For the Atlantic Coast Conference, it was routine stuff. But for the Miami Hurricanes, it was altogether different.

The ACC newcomers won their league home opener Sunday, beating North Carolina State 67-66. The victory was especially sweet because it came before a sellout crowd — the first in two years for the Hurricanes.

"When the fans are screaming and hollering, supporting you like that, that's what you want," said Robert Hite, Miami's leading scorer. "Hopefully, we can continue to get that throughout the season."

Hite and his teammates are accustomed to playing before mostly empty seats at their on-campus convocation center. Last season, their last in the Big East, Miami av-

season, their iast in the big East, Mamii averaged just 2,545 fans at home.
Sunday's crowd of 6,067 was modest by
ACC standards, but evidence that switching leagues might be good for Hurricanes

hoops.

A home game against Duke on Jan. 19 also is sold out.

And the Hurricanes have defied predictions that they'll serve as a conference doormat.

Their second-half rally fell short in a loss last week at then-No. 9 Georgia Tech. But Miami overcame an early 12-point deficit to beat North Carolina State in a thriller that wasn't decided until the final shot.

"We played like a poised team with a lot of savvy down the stretch," first-year coach Frank Haith said. "You've got to play like that night in and night out in this league."

The Hurricanes are 10-3, a big improvement from last season, when they finished 14-16. Victories include non-conference wins over Florida and Massachusetts.

"I think a lot of teams underestimate us," center Anthony King said. "We're two games into the ACC now, and a lot of them are trying to see what we're really made of.



Miami guard Guillermo Diaz (13) hits a three-pointer over N.C. State guard Engin Atsur. He scored 26 in the Hurricanes' victory on Sunday and 27 in a loss to Georgia Tech.

We're showing them we're not going to finish in the bottom of the ACC."

The Hurricanes have long been regarded as a sleeping giant unable to take advantage of their state's fertile prep talent pool.

Miami to three consecutive NCAA tournament berths, including the round of 16 in 2000.

There were occasional signs of life, such

as when coach Leonard Hamilton led



First-year Miami head coach Frank Haith has his team prepared to play "against the best baskethall teams in the country."

But Miami Arena was rarely more than half full when the Hurricanes played there, and the opening of the convocation center in 2003 coincided with declining fortunes under coach Perry Clark.

The roster Clark left behind included considerable raw talent, and under Haith the Hurricanes are physical inside, feisty on defense and perimeter-oriented on offense. Guards Hite, Guillermo Diaz and Anthony Harris are averaging more than 12 points aniect.

"Those three guards are as good as any in the country," Florida coach Billy Donovan said.

Diaz, a sophomore and former member of the Puerto Rican junior national volleyball team, led the comeback against North Carolina State. He has scored 27 and 26 points in two ACC games.

"He's athletic and explosive — a great player," Wolfpack guard Engin Atsur said. Diaz and the Hurricanes play at Virginia on Wednesday, then return home to face rival Florida State on Saturday. The Seminoles know all about the lower half of the ACC. They joined the league in 1992 and have finished in the second division each

of the past 10 years.

The Hurricanes are eager to do better than that.

"We're playing against the best basket-

ball teams in the country," Haith said. "If you're a player, that's a lifelong dream."

Leinart sounds like he's far from deciding his future

BY KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Take a job and become an instant multimillionaire or stay in school and collect \$895 a month for another year. To Matt Leinart, that's a dilem-

ma.
"It's tough when you have so

"irs tough when you have so many people telling you, "The money's there, take it. 'Then your riends and other people say, 'But the money could be there in a year, what's another 10 months?" 'USC's Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback said Tuesday.

The NFL deadline for college underclassmen to declare for the draft is Saturday, but Leinart said he expects to announce Thursday whether he'll return for his senior season.

He said Tuesday that he's still on the fence, and may not decide until the last minute — or beyond. Asked what he'll be doing lead.

Asked what he'll be doing leading up to his announcement, Leinart shook his head and said, "A lot of praying. I'm going to go with what my gut tells me and what I feel at the time. Who knows, I might be one way when I'm going in to announce, and when I'm up there, I'll change."

After leading the Trojans to consecutive national titles, Leinart is fully aware of the risks of playing another year for them. An injury or a less successful season could drop him in the NFL Draft and cost him millions of dollars.

Two outstanding junior quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers of California and Alex Smith of Utah, already have declared for this year's draft.

Leinart doesn't seem eager to end his college days.

"It is a business, and I don't know if I'm ready for that," he said of the NFL "College, it's fun. We get stipend checks, that's our money, live with our friends, just hang out and have fun. College is the best time of your life, and I think the situation I'm in, it really couldn't get any better being here."

The \$895 monthly stipend for athletes is supposed to cover everything but their training table meals.

Although Leinart believes he's accomplished about everything he can as college quarterback, there's one team goal remaining that may factor in his decision. The Trojans could become the first team to win three consecutive national titles.

"Sometimes my heart's like, come back. This is just so great here, and a chance to do something no team has ever done before," he said. "I look at it as a win-win situation for me. If I leave, I'm fulfilling my dream to play in the NFL, to get a shot and try to do that.

"Or I stay in school and be here with something that's real special that's going on, the start of a dynasty. I know that's kind of a bold statement, but it's just obvious what we're doing here and what coach [Pete] Carroll is doing. I'm pretty sure coach Carroll plans on staying around to be a part of this."

Although there has been speculation that an NFL team might try to lure Carroll back to the league, he said recently that he's not interested in leaving USC.

Trojans linebacker Lofa Tatupu and punter Tom Malone also are expected to announce Thursday whether they will leave school early.

Even if Leinart and those two do turn pro, USC still should be loaded next season since most of the starters return. Waiting in the wings is quarterback John David Booty, a third-year sophomore from Louisiana who is considered a better prospect than Leinart was when he took over for 2002 Heisman winner Carson Palmer.

And the Trojans already have a verbal commitment from one of the top high school quarterbacks, Mark Sanchez from Mission Viejo, Calif.

Leinart has received advice from, among many others, Palmer and Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger.

After winning the Heisman in

his senior season, Palmer was taken by the Cincinnati Bengals with the No. 1 pick in the 2003 draft.

Roethlisberger, the 2004 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, left Miami (Ohio) after his junior year and was taken by the Steelers with the 11th pick last spring. He received a \$9 million bonus and earned some \$2.9 million in salary and performance money.

"It almost seems like an easy decision to people outside of USC, Why stay when you can be a top pick? But it's really a lot harder than it seems to make the decision. There are so many pros and const both decisions," said Leinart, who began classes on Monday and could complete requirements for his sociology degree this semester.

"Whatever I do, I'm going to be happy with my decision and move on from there."

He threw for 3,322 yards and 33 touchdowns this season, capping it in grand fashion with an Orange Bowl record five touchdown passes in the Trojans' 55-19 victory over Oklahoma.



Indianapolis running back Edgerrin James, left, fends off Denver linebacker D.J. Williams during the Colts' 49-24 victory on Sunday. The Patriots have beaten the Colts three time in the past two seasons.

These Colts have horsepower

BY BARRY WILNER The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Peyton Manning knows his NFL history. He sees his name among the great quarter-

Analysis

backs who have league MVP honors: Joe Montana, John John Elway, Steve Young, Terry

Bradshaw He also knows something is

Is this the year Manning gets

that elusive championship ring to accompany his second straight Valuable Player award? Could be.

In none of Manning's previous six seasons with the Colts has his team been so well-positioned to challenge for a title. The offense is nerforming at an almost unfath. omable pace, thanks to Manning's precise passing and the superb skills of receivers Marvin Harrison, Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, plus running back Edgerrin James and tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark

The defense, while hardly in the class of the other three re-



maining AFC contenders, has improved. It has enjoyed the advantage of playing from ahead be-cause of how prolific Manning and company have been. It has two playmakers in Dwight Freeney and Rob Morris, and a terrific coach in Tony Dungy.

The Colts also are not a "dome team." as Dungy readily points

"We don't subscribe to the indoor-outdoor theory," Dungy says. "We have a better record on the road than at home since I've been here

Actually, it's the same: 17-7 at home and away.

Where they have a terrible record, however, is at New England. And that's where the Colts (13-4) play Sunday, versus the defending champion Patriots (14-2), a club that often befuddles Manning with intricate defensive alignments and shifts.

Forget the weather, which hasn't necessarily been a problem for the Colts. Their failures against the Patriots, including a efeat at the RCA Dome in the 2003 season, are due to Bill Belichick's schemes that have thrown off the always-prepared Manning.

But this edition of the Colts seems to possess a different mind-set than the team that claimed it could handle the Patriots in recent meetings, then failed. "Your confidence has to be that

you're playing well and we're playing more consistently at the



end of the year than last year." Dungy says "At New England," said Man-

"At New England, ning, referring to last January's AFC championship game, "I played like an absolute dog. re's no question about it. "We have to play great up there

against a great team So are they capable of doing so, of eliminating a team that has won all six of its playoff games with Belichick as coach and Tom Brady as quarterback?

Yes. Here's why ■ The Patriots, even with a week off, are not completely healed

They are hurting most in the secondary, a bad situation when facing Indianapolis. And their best lineman, Richard Seymour, has an injured knee.

■ Manning is operating on an unprecedented level, and he has more weapons to choose from than ever. Wayne has become a premier receiver, not just a complement to the brilliant Harrison Stokley is a perfect slot man. Both tight ends are especially dangerous near the end zone. The offensive line gives Manning enough time to go through his progressions - and nobody reads progressions better. "I've never left the field saving

I could have done more to be ready," Manning says. "I don't think I do more than any quarterback should; I give it the attention it deserves.

■ The officials' stronger emphasis on not allowing receivers to be mugged downfield, a direct result of last year's AFC title game, fa-

vors the Colts. ■ The Colts aren't intimidated

by the Patriots. "I don't think anybody in our building would say we can't go up there and beat them," Dungy says, "Part of what we have to do is realize it is just football, even if it's the playoffs and New England.

We make the big plays, we'll win." Few teams have made more big plays this season than the Colts.

History will watch Manning, Patriots

BY TOM E. CURRAN The Providence Journal

FOXBORO Mass - History is straightening its tie this week and smoothing its hair in the mirror. It has an appointment Sunday in Foxboro

History doesn't actually attend many events. Most aren't worthy of its notice. But those that will be relevant to History 5, 10, 20 years down the road get special attention. History will make sure the participants will be forever recalled as they were on that particular day even if - many years forward - those participants are grav, stooped or dead.

History shows up when a great change is going to take place so that it may be recorded. History shows up when indelible moments occur. So history is reaching up into

its closet and taking down its warm gloves and furry hat. It's going to the garage to get its hiba-History will be tailgating out-

side Gillette Stadium early Sunday afternoon before the playoff game between the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts. History then will go inside and find a seat because it will want to record this event The Patriots are changing

Drastically. Offensive coordina-tor Charlie Weis is leaving at the end of the year.

Defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel may go. as well. The best cornerback they ever had. Ty Law, may not be back next season, and Troy Brown the player who has embodied what franchise

has been about since Bill Belichick came to town - is near the end too Vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli is going to be wooed by every team in the league that wants to get better

Indianapolis

Colts

10:30 p.m. Sunday

AFN-A, AFN-P, AFN Radio

The run of these Patriots is nearing its end. With Belichick, Tom Brady, Tedy Bruschi and Richard Seymour still on board, they still will be easily recognizable and they may well continue to be a league power. But Sunday's game affords this team — as it is presently constituted - a chance to make a monumental statement regarding what it has been about. It can be the perfect bookend to

the 2001 Super Bowl victory over the Rams. History remembers that day when the Patriots were introduced not just to football fans, but the entire world as a team, complete with all the selflessness, grit and passion that teams are supposed to have. They have everyone's attention again. only this time they will be trying to add to a legacy that began with that Super Bowl triumph

There are many who already believe the Patriots' run ends Sunday.

Commentary

That the shape they are in will make it impossible to stop Indianapolis and continue their reign as the best team in football.

History already remembers that this is the team that drew up the blueprints for long-term domination in a league that was supposed to be immune to it. And History knows that one of the main parts of the plan was to make sure that no one player is bigger than the team.

To win Sunday, the team will have to stop a one-player operation

Of course, the Colts are much more than that, and the one player — Peyton Manning — would say himself that he isn't the whole

But History won't have time for such details. History will remember Peyton Manning and the Colts. Not the Colts, quarterbacked by Peyton Manning.

Manning is the hood ornament for the league. He's the easy answer to the questions of who is the best player, the best quarterback, the guy who gets the endorsements and the commercials, the magazine covers and the individual accolades He is said by some to be the

best ever. But it will be

hard for History to see Manning in the light he's supposed to be seen in if he doesn't win a title. And if Manning doesn't do it by stepping over the Patriots, then that's no good either Until then, the

hood ornament won't sit quite right on the hood To continue the ascendancy he

New England

Patriots

vas baptized into. Manning has to beat New England. They are the albatross tied 'round his neck, the team against which he turns to pudding. To lose Sunday, when the Patri-

ots are battered and expected to lose that would be something that History could not ignore.

Manning's marching orders are to win now against a Patriots team that is ripe for the picking. Win, or run the risk of having His tory tack that to his back for the rest of his career. Because if New England wins Sunday, Peyton Manning will have lost. Not the

Manning. History's funny like that.

This is not the most important game this weekend or the most important game of the playoffs. This game offers considerable historic impact.

Whether it winds up 20-17 in double overtime or 42-3, the win-ner — and the loser — Sunday will be remembered for many

By History.

Pointed exchange of words between Jets and Steelers

BY CHUCK FINDER Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Silly as seem in the playoffs, when motivation and emotion require no additional external fueling. Steelers linebacker James Farrior and several New York Jets players, namely defensive end Shaun Ellis, exchanged rela-end Shaun Ellis, exchanged relavievely charged words this week over ... words.

It all goes back to some visiting postgame proclamations when the Steelers and Jets confronted one another Dec. 12 at Heinz Field.

In the aftermath of that 17-6 Steelers triumph, an array of Jets from Curtis Martin on down talked for public consumption about how they hoped to return to the same venue, to face the same team, in the postseason.

Ellis went a step further, vowing that night: "If we come back again, we'll beat them. I honestly believe that with all my might."

This from a muscular, 6-foot-5, 285-pound fellow nicknamed "Big Katt" with 41 career sacks, including 1½ of his team-high 11 this season in last month's game at Heinz Field.



10:30 p.m. Saturday AFN-Atlantic, Pacific & Radio

Game time is Central European.

"Yeah, we noticed it," Farrior, a Jets linebacker between 1997-2001, said on a telephone conference call Tuesday. "We were surprised he said that... We just looked at it and laughed at it, and they got what they wished for."— a rematch.

To which Ellis responded barely seconds later, when informed by media members about Farrior's comments: "The statement that I made, I'm a man, I put my name on it. I'll stick by it."

Then again, Ellis added, what would folks expect from a professional, competitive athlete after a

ss: "I'm not going to say they're going to beat us the next time," he continued. "I'd be a damn fool to say that. I still believe that (the Jets will win). It was just the way I truly felt in my heart. Here it is, we got another chance against them.... Whatever happens, happens."

To be sure, the Jets still feel an

extra sting from that defeat. They were whistled for 12 penalties in I the first half, a season high for a team that committed the fewest in the AFC this season and the least amount in the NFL combined over the past four years funder coach Herman Edwards.

League officials, in their postadmitted that Walt Anderson's crew muffed a few calls — two of which came in one second-quarter series, wiping out 59 yards in Jets gains, and another that nullified a Hines Ward fumble

Worse for this bunch, they held rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to the worst day of his 14-game NFL winning streak—he compiled a 1.3 passer rating in the first half and tossed two interceptions—and lost to the Steel-



Despite seeing his team outgained 296-262, Steelers coach Bill Cowher, above, saw his team beat the Jets 17-6 on Dec. 12 in Pittsburgh.

ers on a day when the winning touchdown was scored on a pass from Jerome Bettis. The Jets outgained the Steelers

296-262, but quarterback Chad Pennington threw a pass that Farrior intercepted at the Steelers' 26 and a Troy Polamalu interception deep in New York territory led to a Jeff Reed field goal.

In short, the Jets remember it being a 3-3 game until the fourth quarter, whereupon the Steelers scored on Bettis' halfback pass to Jerame Tuman and his touchdown rumble around right end nine minutes later.

The fact that the loss was the

first of three in the Jets' final four

regular-season games only serves to compound their agony. "We didn't play physical

"We didn't play physicale enough and we didn't play smart," linebacker Eric Barton said of the Jets' defense, which allowed Roethlisberger to rally from that horrendous first half to complete four of his final five passes for 99 yards. "Penalties and coverages, we messed up a couple of times."

"We felt like a lot of things were against us and we played out of character, we got a lot of penalties," Ellis said. "Not saying we should have won or whatever, but it could have been a lot tighter at the end. That's the game we like to play."

Edwards apologizes for sideline argument

BY ANDREA ADELSON The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Herman Edwards' mother saw this side of him many times. Now the entire country has seen it, too.

The Jets coach finally let his emotions get the best of him during the wild-card game against be 3n Diego Chargers on Saturday night, getting into a fight with assistant coach Bishop Harris on the sideline. Edwards knew he was wrong the second he let the words come out of his mouth, so Tuesday and said he was sorry for losing his cool.

"It wasn't right," Edwards said

"It wasn't right," Edwards said as the Jets prepare to play Pittsburgh on Saturday, "The head coach is supposed to keep his composure. That's the one thing I preach to our football team all the time. I have high expectations on myself and I let my guard down and I shouldn't have fallen into the trap.

"I won't embarrass the league by showing me on the TV set instead of showing our team."

stead of showing our team."
Edwards, who usually exudes
California cool, had never lost his
temper before as a player or a
coach. But his players know Edwards is plenty emotional. Veteran receiver Wayne Chrebet said
he does not understand how Edwards keeps everything bottled
up inside.



Jets head coach Herman Edwards, above, had a heated argument with assistant coach Bishop Harris during Saturday's playoff game in San Diego. The nature of the confrontation is unknown.

"I liked it," Chrebet said. "I know he's got it in him. We need that, to follow his lead. I know what he was like when he played. I know he still has it in him." But the inner fire Edwards has

But the inner fire Edwards has serves his team well.

"I don't usually get mad, but there's times on the field where I'm a second away from the same type of thing," Curtis Martin said. "That's just emotion, that's football. Just playing out there in that game especially. I didn't really think of it as anything."

Edwards screamed at Harris late in the third quarter but has declined to say why. It is known that Edwards wanted to get back-up LaMont Jordan more involved in the game.

Harris makes the personnel calls after getting the plays from offensive coordinator Paul Hackett over the headset. So the altercation probably had something to do with the use of Martin and Jordan. Harris has declined interview requests this week.

Subtracting Owens from equation multiplies Minnesota's guesswork

St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — For the second time in as many weeks, the Vikings are preparing to face a playoff opponent they played during the regular season.

Unlike last Sunday's NFC wild-card game against the Green Bay Packers, though, it's uncertain just how much of an advantage — if any — that experience might be.

When the Vikings played at Philadelphia on Sept. 20, star wide receiver Terrell Owens was an important part of Minnesota's defensive game planning, and he had a big hand in the Eagles' 27-16 victory.

With Owens sidelined with an ankle injury, the Eagles' offense is something of a mystery heading into Sunday's playoff game.

"We're trying to, as coaches, figure out what type of personality they're going to try to put on the field offensively without Owens' Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "Of course, they have the great playmaker at running back (Brian Westbrook) and a great tight end (Chad Lewis

"We've got to do the best job we can as coaches to put a plan together that takes away the personality they're going to have Sunday, and we don't know exactly what that's going to be."

In the two games since Owens was injured, the Eagles haven't exactly tipped their hand.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb played just one series in a 20-7



7 p.m. Sunday AFN-Atlantic, Pacific & Radio

Week 16 loss to the St. Louis Rams and not at all in the season-ending 38-10 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Already assured of home-field advantage for the playoffs, the Eagles rested several other starters. Vikings defensive coordinator Ted Cottrell said he expects to see basically the same Philadelphia offense on Sunday, even with Owens out.

"They still run their offense," Cottrell said. "They're not going to change. When they had Terrell, they put him in the (same) position where the receivers were last year. They've got a variety of formations and plays anyway. They plug the players in to run the offense."

That might be true, but the Eagles can't simply plug in another Owens, who caught a team-high 77 passes for 1,200 yards and 14 touchdowns in 14 games.

Philadelphia's second-leading wide receiver, Todd Pinkston, finished the regular season with 36 receptions for 676 yards and one touchdown, so Owens' absence figures to be huge. "He opens it up for the other receivers, gives Westbrook more room to work," Vikings cornerback Antoine Winfield said. "Some teams double-team him. They can spread the field with him. I don't know what they're going to do without him."

Owens caught four passes for 79 yards, including a disputed 45-yard touchdown, during the regular-season victory over the Vikings. But it's not as if the Eagles have lost their only offensive

They still have McNabb, who passed for 245 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another against the Vikings.

"He makes that offense go," Cottrell said of McNabb. "He's critical to them. He can still scramble well with the ball, he's strong, and I think he's making a tol better decisions. His decision-making has improved over the years with his experience. It's not easy being a quarterback up my bometown fans, and they're kind of tough on you if you're not performing, especially at the quarterback position. This guy's been doing a great job."

Throw in Westbrook, the team's leading rusher and second-leading receiver, and tight ends Lewis and L.J. Smith, and Cottrell said his defense has its work cut out for it.

"They have enough weapons," Cottrell said. "T.O. was a great plus for them, but they've been in the (conference) championship three years in a row, so they've got the weapons to get there."

Holmgren says he's staying in Seattle

The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Mike Holmgren isn't going anywhere. Seattle's coach held a wrap-up news conference Tuesday

NFL briefs briefs weather speculation he

might be fired or leave after a frustrating 9-7 regular season. The Seahawks lost last weekend's wild-card home game to St. Louis.

"I haven't been told I'm not coming back," Holmgren said. There's also been talk in the Bay Area, where Holmgren grew up, that he might consider coaching the San Francisco 49ers.

ing the San Francisco 49ers.
"I don't want to coach anyplace else," Holmgren said. "I want to get it done here. I love our team. I love our guys. But to say it didn't cross my mind to ride off into the sunset? I'd by lying."

In 19 NFL seasons, Holmgren couldn't remember such an unusual season. After a 3-0 record that seemed to validate preseason forecasts of a Super Bowl run, an erratic turn made Holmgren question himself.

"I always said in close games I felt I could make a difference," Holmgren said. "I've had to many close games this year where I didn't make a difference. I have to start with myself."

The Seahawks have 16 players eligible for unrestricted free agency, including running back Shaun Alexander, quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and tackle Walter Jones.

Niners add Nolan, Schwartz to interview list

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The San Francisco 49ers added two NFL assistant coaches to their list of candidates for their vacant head coaching position Tuesday.

San Francisco owner John York received permission to interview Baltimore defensive coordinator



Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said Tuesday, "I don't want to coach anyplace else. I want to get it done here."

Mike Nolan and Tennessee defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz.

York, who interviewed New England's Romeo Crennel last week, met with Tennessee offensive coordinator Mike Heimerdinger on Tuesday. He will interview New York Giants defensive coordinator Tim Lewis on Wednesday.

Steelers might not reveal RB starter until Saturday

PITTSBURGH — Running backs Jerome Bettis and Duce Staley split time during practice Tuesday, and Steelers coach Bill Cowher might not announce a starter until Saturday.

"They're both going to play," Cowher said after the Steelers resumed practicing following a three-day layoff prior to their divisional playoff game against the New York Jets. "We'll see how we are on game day."

Bettis (941 yards) and Staley (830 yards) split time during the regular season, but only after Staley injured a hamstring Oct. 31 against New England.

Bettis, used mostly aben, stepped in with six 100-yard games in as many starts before sitting out Jan. 2 at Buffalo with a sprained ankle. Staley started that day, but was pulled from what was a meaningless game for Pittsburgh after carrying eight times for 21 yards.

Staley had four 100-yard games in a five-game stretch before he was injured. He appeared to have less acceleration and power after returning, but Cow-

her was happy Tuesday.

"He looked good today," the coach said.

No Credit, Bad Credit, No Problem. No Credit, Bad Cred No Credit, Bad Credit. Problem. No Credit, Bad Cred No Credit. Bad Cred

From forlorn to formidable

Falcons' front four keys one-year turnaround from one of the NFL's worst defenses to one of the best

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — They've known what it means to be a laughingstock, the supposed first line of defense for a team that gave up yards at an alarming rate. No one's laughing anymore.

Bolstered by a new scheme, a key free-agent signing and better depth, the Atlanta Falcons' front four is now recognized as one of the best in the NFL.

The numbers back it up. The Falcons led the league with 48 sacks and ranked eighth against the run — a stunning turnaround for a team that surrendered a franchise-worst 6,108 yards last season.

"It confirms to these guys that, Yeah, you are good," "said defensive line coach Bill Johnson, who actually got a little choked up while pondering how much things have changed "They've worked so hard, come through so much, going back to when everybody thought they were the worst in the league."

Patrick Kerney gets much of the notoriety, a Pro Bowl end who ranked fourth in the league with 13 sacks. But he's quick to point out that it's hardly a one-man show in the trenches.

show in the trenches.

Just take a look at tackle Rod Coleman, signed as a free agent after five seasons with the Oakland Raiders. Even though lemissed three games recovering from injuries sustained in a car wreck, Coleman managed 11½ sacks, forced a team-high five fumbles and broke up six passes.

Most telling, the Falcons had only one sack in the games Coleman missed. He's a disruptive force in the middle of the line, often tying up several blockers and freeing up plenty of space for his teammates.

"The best thing about Rod is he came here from a different system, a different philosophy, and he bought in to what we wanted to do," Kerney said. "You've got to have four guys pushing the pocket together, not four guys rushing individually."

Led by Michael Vick and a resurgent defense, the Falcons won only the third division title in franchise history. After getting a first-round bye, they are hosting the St. Louis Rams in an NFC playoff game Saturday night.

Kerney and Coleman are joined along the front four by end Brady Smith, who has six sacks, three forced fumbles, two recovered fumbles, and tackle Ed Jas-



Pro Bowl end Patrick Kerney, tackling Arizona quarterback Josh Mc-Cown (12), ranked fourth in the NFL this season with 13 sacks. The Falcons led the NFL in sacks (48) and ranked second in the NFC against the run (105.1 yards per game) this season.



Rams at Falcons 2 a.m. Sunday: AFN-Atlantic, Pacific & Radio

Game time is Central European.

per. His numbers are more modest because he missed the last four games of the regular season

with a wrist injury.

The changes began shortly after Jim Mora was hired as coach and brought in Ed Donatell, formerly of Green Bay, as defensive coordinator.

The new staff quickly switched to the 4-3 scheme, which has definitely been a better fit for Kerney than the previous three-man front. He can rely on his speed and quickness to rush the quarterback from the outside, instead of matching up head-on with much hisper linemen.

The coaches also knew that more depth was required. Kerney figures he took every defensive snap in at least six games a year ago, and it was about the same in 2002. as well.

"It builds up when you don't have a chance to recover," Kerney said. "It's like the energy bar on the video game. I could never get it back to full strength." It's not that way anymore. Fifth-round pick Chad Lavalais has bolstered things on the inside. After Jasper was hurt, the rookie

stepped in without any noticeable drop-off.

Jasper has recovered in time for the playoffs, but Lavalais along with Antwan Lake — will be ready to provide a breather. Ditto on the outside, where former starter Travis Hall is

standing by when Kerney or Smith needs a break. Johnson, in his fourth season as the Falcons' defensive line coach, points to another factor that contributed to the improvement this

season.
"It's not something that shows up in the statistics, but the coach sees it every day," Johnson said.
"The guys really seem to care about each other, whether they're practicing, sitting in a meeting room or getting together away from the field. What makes it more amazing is their disparate

backgrounds and personalities." Kerney is a notorious free spirit from suburban Philadelphia.

Jasper is a laid-back country boy from Texas. Hall was raised in Alaska, which undoubtedly accounts for his reserved demeanor. Smith grew up near Chicago. Lavalais hails from rural Louisiana.

Somehow, all those unique pieces managed to fit. Kerney gave a canoe to Jasper, an avid fisherman. Jasper keeps an eye on Coleman, who is going through a divorce. During the holidays, they all got together at Hall's house.

"They don't just work together," Johnson said. "They're the greatest group of guys I've ever coached from a personality stand-





The Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal taunts the Memphis crowd after making two free throws to beat the Grizzlies.

Loss to Pistons not as bad for Nets as losing Jefferson

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -Bad news arrived in the afternoon for Richard Jefferson and the New Jersey Nets, and bad basketball naturally followed.

Hours after they learned they'd be without Jefferson for the remainder of the season, the Nets sorely missed his offense in an 89-80 loss to the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Jefferson needs surgery to repair a torn ligament in his left wrist, meaning the Nets will have to make do without their leading scorer and rebounder just 31/ weeks after acquiring a third star, Vince Carter.

"It's tough, we were just talking about it [Monday] and he wasn't sure what the doctors were going to say," Carter said.

Rasheed Wallace had 19 points and 13 rebounds, and Richard Hamilton scored 18 points for the Pistons as they extended their road winning streak to six games on the one-month anniversary of their last loss away from home.

Jefferson, dressed in all black watched from the bench as the Nets got 19 points from Carter, 16 from Travis Rest and 13 from Jason Kidd while losing for the fourth time in five games.

Jefferson originally injured the wrist when he was flagrantly fouled last month by Detroit's Chauncey Billups on a breakaway.

Jefferson said he doesn't consider Billups a dirty player, but he thought the foul constituted a dirty play

"I have been in this league for a while and you all can check my record I know I don't have more than one or two flagrants." Billups said. "Everybody knows I don't play like that. There is no reason to make a play like that, with malicious intent



Jefferson had been in a mini-slump ever since being on the receiving end of Billups' undercut foul, and an MRI revealed the torn ligament. Jefferson will wear a cast for two months after undergoing surgery, and he said he hoped to return for the playoffs - if the Nets qualify.

That'll be a much more daunting task now that the team leader in scoring (22.2) and rebounds (7.3) is out. The loss solidified the Nets' spot at the bottom of the At-lantic Division.

Cavaliers 100, Bobcats 98 (OT): At Cleveland, Drew Gooden scored nine of the Cavaliers' final 15 points, including seven in over-

LeBron James, who had 29 points, helped the Cavaliers rally from a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter for its fourth straight victory.

Brevin Knight tied a career high with 20 assists for the Bobcats, who lost for the eighth time in nine games.

On Wednesday, the Cavaliers learned rookie guard Luke Jackson will have back surgery Thursday and miss the rest of the sea-

Jackson, the 10th overall pick in last year's NBA Draft, has had back problems since the summer, but the pain worsened recently. He was diagnosed earlier this week with a herniated disc.

Hornets 88, Knicks 82: Baron Davis had 21 points and 10 assists to give the Hornets their first winning streak of the season.

Lee Nailon had 18 points, and P.J. Brown and Dan Dickau added 17 points each for the Hornets, who ended a 15-game road losing skid. Allan Houston led the Knicks

with 17 points. Hawks 103, Bucks 80: Ty ronn Lue scored a season-high 18 points to lead seven players in

double figures as the Hawks snapped a six-game losing streak The Bucks were without start-ing center Dan Gadzuric for most of the game. He played only six minutes before he was taken to an Atlanta hospital, complaining of stomach pain.

Pacers 86, Grizzlies 85: Jermaine O'Neal canned a 35-point night by making two free throws with 4.6 seconds left to snap the Grizzlies' six-game winning

O'Neal, who was 12-for-23 from the field, grabbed 12 rebounds to give Indiana its only victory in a four-game road trip

Pau Gasol had 31 points and four blocks for Memphis, and Bonzi Wells added 20 points.

Kings 109, Nuggets 100: Peja Stojakovic scored 27 points, Mike Bibby added 18 and the short-handed Kings extended the Nuggets' losing streak in Sacramento to 17 games.

Rookie Kevin Martin scored 11 of his career-high 17 points in the second quarter for the Kings, who dressed just nine players. Chris Webber sat out with a

sore left knee, and the Kings also were without new acquisitions Cuttino Mobley and Michael Bradley following Monday's trade with Orlando for Doug Christie.

SuperSonics 104, Clippers 99: At Seattle, Ray Allen scored 31 points and Vladimir Radmanovic had nine of his 18 points in the fourth quarter for the SuperSonics.

Corey Maggette led the Clippers with 20 points. Elton Brand added 17 points and 11 rebounds.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division

	w	L	Pct	GB	
lew York	17	18	.486	-	- 3
Boston	16	19	.457	1	
Philadelphia	15		.455	1	
oronto	13	22	.371	4	
lew Jersey		22	.353	41/2	- 8
Southea	st Divis	ion			- 1
//iami	27	10	.730	-	
Vashington	19	13	.594	51/2	- 5
Orlando	18	15	.545	7	- 4
Charlotte	8	23	.258	16	
tlanta.		26	.188	181/2	- 5
	l Divisio				- 5
Cleveland	21	12	.636	-	- 1
Detroit	19	14	.576	2	
ndiana	17	16	.515	4	
Chicago	14	18	.438	61/2	
//////////////////////////////////////	12	20	.375	81/2	

Western Conference

Southwest Division								
	W	L	Pct	GB				
San Antonio	28	8	.778	-				
Dallas	22	10	.688	4				
Memphis	18	18	.500	10				
Houston	17	17	.500	10				
New Orleans	4	29	.121	221/2				
Northwest I	Divis	ion						
Seattle		8	.758	-				
Minnesota	17	16	.515	8				
Portland	15	18	.455	10				
Denver	14			111/2				
Utah		24	.333	141/2				
Pacific Div								
Phoenix	31	4	.886	-				
Sacramento	22	11	.667	8				
L.A. Lakers		14	.563	111/2				
L.A. Clippers	16	17	.485	14				
Golden State		24	.314	20				
Tuesday's games								
Cleveland 100, Charlotte 98, OT								
Atlanta 103, Milwauke	2 80							

Atlanta 103, Milwaukee 80 Detroit 89, New Jersey 80 New Orleans 88, New York 82 Indiana 86, Memphis 85 Phoenix 122, Miami 107 Sacramento 109, Denver 100 Seattle 104, L.A. Clippers 99 Wednesday's gam

New Orleans at Detroit Orlando at Minnesota Philadelphia at Chicago Milwaukee at San Antor Milwaukee at San Antonio Phoenix at Utah L.A. Lakers at Denver Houston at Dallas Miami at Golden State Seattle at L.A. Clippers Thursday's gan New Jersey at Houston Utah at Sacramento Cleveland at L.A. Lakers

Friday's games

penix at Indiana onto at Philadelphia mphis at Charlotte Atlanta at B Dallas at San Antonio Washington at Milwaukee Miami at L.A. Clippers Minnesota at Denver Golden State at Seattle

Tuesday Cavaliers 100, Bobcats 98 (OT)

100. Charlette
Charlette
19 26 19 22 11-1-1Three-Point Gals—Charlotte 5-9 (Ragono
Three-Point Gals—Charlotte 5-9 (Ragono
31, Bogana 5-4, Walliace 0-1, Rush-0-1, Cleveland 3-14 (James 2-5, Snow 1-2, Gooden 0-1,
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fouls—Charlotte 21, Cleveland 23, Techni-cals—Charlotte Defensive Three Second Sampson, A—18,494 (20,562). Hawks 103, Bucks 80

DETROIT — Prince 3-9 1-2 7, R.Wallace 8 2-2 19, B.Wallace 5-10 1-2 11, Hamilton 3 12-14 18, Billups 2-7 6-6 11, Dupree 1-2 0-6 McDyess 5-9 1-2 11, Hunter 5-8 0-0 10. Tot 32-71 23-28 89.

NEW JERSEY — Carter 7-20 5-7 19, Collins 2-7 2-2 6, Krstic 4-8 2-2 10, Buford 5-12 0-0 10 Kidd 5-13 1-1 13, Best 6-17 2-2 16, Smith 3-6 0-0 6, Vaughn 0-0 0-0 0, Moiso 0-0 0-0 0. Totals

Detroit		3 21-89
New Jersey	16 21 2	2 21-80
Three-Point Goals -	Detroit 2-9 (Bil	lups 1-3,
R.Wallace 1-3, Hunt	er 0-1. Hamilt	on 0-2).
New Jersey 4-14 (Be-	st 2-5. Kidd 2-6	. Carter
0-3), Fouled out-No	ne. Rebounds-	-Detroit
53 (R.Wallace 13), Nev	v Jersev 47 (Co	Ilins 10).
Assists-Detroit 21 (H	lamilton 7), Ne	w Jersey
15 (Kidd 7), Total foul	s-Detroit 15. I	New Jer-
sev 22. Technicals-	R.Wallace, Nev	v Jersey
Defensive Three 5	Second 2. A	-15.755
(19.860).		
	Detroit New Jersey Three-Point Goals— R. Wallace 1-3, Hunt New Jersey 4-14 (Bet 0-3). Fouled out—No 53 (R. Wallace 13), Net Assists—Detroit 21 (h 15 (Kidd 7). Total foul sey 22. Technicals— Defensive Three 2:	Detroit 18 27 2 Hew Jersey 16 21 2 Three-Point Goals—Detroit 2-9 (Bil Rwallace 1-3, Hunter 0-1, Hamilt New Jersey 4-14 (Best 2-5, Kidd 2-4 3-3). Foulded out—None. Rebounds 53 (R. Wallace 13), New Jersey 47 (Co 15 (Kidd 7), Total fouls—Detroit 15, sey 22. Technicals—R. Wallace. New Defensive Three Second 2. A

Hornets 88, Knicks 82

NEW ORLEANS — Nailon 8-14 2-2 18, Rogers 3-9 0-0 6, Brown 6-11 5-6 17, Davis 5-16 10-13 21, Smith 3-8 0-0 7, Dickau 5-6 4-4 17, Nachbar 1-4 0-0 2, Andersen 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 31-70 21-25 88.

21-25 8.

NEW YORK — K.Thomas 7-14 1-2 15, J.Will-lams 5-7 2-5 12, Mohammed 3-8 1-2 7, Hous-ton 5-20 4-17, Marbury 5-15-5-615, Ariza 3-7 2-2 8, Norris 4-6 0-0 8. Totals 33-77 15-21 82.

New Orleans 26 28 16 18—88 New York Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 5-16 New York
Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 5-16
(Dickau 3-3, Smith 1-2, Davis 1-7, Nachbar 9-1, Rogers 9-3), New York 1-21 (Mouston 1-8, Nagers 9-3), New York 1-21 (Mouston 1-8, Nagers 9-3), New York 1-21 (Mouston 1-8, Nagers 9-3), New York 1-21 (Mohammed 12), Assists—New Orleans 2-2 (Davis 10), New York 18 (Marbury 13), Total fouls—New Orleans 20, New York 19, Technical—New York Defensive Three Second. A—17,639 (19,45)

Pacers 86, Grizzlies 85

INDIANA — J.Jones 0-3 0-0 0, O'Neal 12-23 11-11 35, Foster 3-8 2-3 8, Tinsley 7-17 4-4 19, R.Miller 4-7 0-0 10, Curry 1-3 0-0 2, Croshere 7-7 4-5 8, Harrison 0-1 0-0 9, F.Jones 1-3 0-0 2, Johnson 0-1 2-2 2, Totals 30-73 23-25 86. ohnson 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 30-73 23-25 86. MEMPHIS — Battler 3-5 1-2 7, Gasol 12-19 -12 31, L.Wright 3-8 0-0 6, Williams 3-6 3-3 11, M.Miller 0-1 2-2 2, Wells 7-12 4-5 20, Watson -4 0-0 2, D.Jones 1-4 1-3 3, Swift 1-4 1-2 3. To- als 31-63 18-29 85.

22 26 13 25-8 Indiana 22 26 13 25—86 Wemphilorit Gaals—Indiana 22 26 13 25—86 Wemphilorit Gaals—Indiana 19 18—88 26 21 Indiana 22 Indiana 23 Indiana 24 Indiana 25 India

Suns 122, Heat 107

MIAMI — EJones 4-13 1-1 11, Haslem 6-10 4-16, O'Neal 16-20 2-6 34, Wade 9-19 5-8 23, Jones 0-3 0-0 0, Laettner 0-0 0-0 0, Doleac 5-5 0-0 4, Dooling 1-5 0-0 2, Anderson 2-4 0-1 , Butler 4-5 0-0 11, Person 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 5-85 12-20 107.

Three-Point Goals—Mamis 1-31 (Butler -3-4, E.Jones 2-6, Anderson 0-1, D.Jones 0-2), Phoe-nts 9-29 (Johnson 4-8, Richardson 3-12, Jacob sen 1-2, Marlon 1-3, Mash 0-4), Fouled out-–None. Rebounds—Mami 49 (O'Neal 11), Phoenix 53 (Marlon 11), Assists—Mami 26 (Wade 8), Phoenix 27 (Mash 16). Total fouls—Milami 23, Phoenix 19. A–18,422 (18,422).

Kings 109, Nuggets 100

Kings 109, Nuggets 100
DEWER - Anthony 414 8-11 16, KemMar10 7-113-517, Camby 27, 4-48, Dubmon 1-1,
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mento 1/ (BISC) Sacramento 22. Technicais—Sacramento fensive Three Second, Sacramento Adelman, B.Miller. A—17,317 (17,317) Sonics 104, Clippers 99

L.A. CLIPPERS — Brand 6-14 5-7 17, Sim-mons 4-11 6-7 14, Kaman 5-9 0-0 10, Brunson 6-16 0-0 15, Maggette 6-15 7-9 20, Moore 4-4 23 10, Ross 0-2 0-0 0, Kittles 3-8 2-2 9, Rebra-ca 2-3 0-1 4, Martin 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-82

2-29 99.
SEATTLE — Evans 2-4 1-3 5, Lewis 4-10 0-0, James 2-3 0-0 4, Allen 9-20 8-8 31, Ridnour -11 0-0 6, Radmanovic 7-13 2-2 18, Daniels -8 1-2 10, Fortson 1-4 9-9 11, Coillison 2-2 3-3, Murray 1-5 0-0 3. Totals 35-580 2-42-7104.
L.A. Clippers 27 23 26 23-99
Seattle 31 20 23 38-104

LA. Clippers 27 23 26 23 – 99
Seattle
Three-Point Goals—LA. Clippers 5-15
(Brunson 3-7. Maggette 1-3. Kittles 1-4.
Brand 6-1). Seattle 16-20 (Allen 5-10, Radi13). Fouled out—Fortson. Rebounds—LA.
Clippers 58 (Brand 11), Seattle 43 (Kyans 9).
Assists—LA. Clippers 23 (Maggette 7), Seattle 24 (Ridnour 11). Total fouls—LA. Clippers
24. Seattle 7.4—15,001 (170-4.

Thursday, January 13, 2005 • STARS AND STRIPES • MIDEAST EDITION • PAGE 31

SUNS 32

Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, left, shoots over Heat forward Udonis Haslem, right, in the fourth quarter. Stoudemire scored 34 points.

Suns: Stoudemire a young Shaq

CUNC FROM RACK RACK

"We've obviously struggled with the top teams in the West, and that's something that I think should stick in our mind every day," 'Van Gundy said. "And any time we have any tendency to get compleact, that should be what pushes us and drives us to improve over the last 14 weeks of the season. We have to get a lot better to get to where we want to go. You can't argue the facts on that."

Stoudemire relished his matchup with O'Neal, his boyhood idol.

"I did a little bit of everything," Stoudemire said.
"I tried to mix it up on him, and use my jumper. I figured he was going to back up a little bit and let me shoot, and when he came out, I took it to the rack and tried to get fouls or make plays for my teammates."

O'Neal has always liked Stoudemire.

"Tonight it was the old me versus the young me," O'Neal said. "I wanted to make him shoot the jumper, and he shot it, and he shot it real well. He's a great kid."

Despite Miami's attempts to slow the tempo, the Suns raced to their highest-scoring first quarter of the season, taking a 40-25 lead. Miami never was closer than 10 again.

"We talked about it. Every first quarter, they

jump on people," Van Gundy said. "We got ourselves in a big hole, and we tried a couple times to fight back, but we just could never get enough stops to ever make it a game." "I'm disappointed that we didn't come out and do

"I'm disappointed that we didn't come out and do the things that we talked about," Heat forward Udonis Haslem said.

Stoudemire made all four of his first-quarter shots each one from beyond 15 feet.

O'Neal scored 17 in the first half on 8-for-9 shooting, five of them dunks. O'Neal and Stoudemire are first and second in the NBA in dunks.

The Heat were down 71-61 on Wade's basket early in the second half, but the Suns went on one of their trademark runs, this one 18-4, to go up 89-65 on Stoudemire's soaring dunk with 6:40 left in the

In the fourth quarter, Stoudemire was knocked down by O'Neal, but flipped the ball in sidearmed as he fell. He made the free throw for a three-point play to put Phoenix up 105-85 with 9.46 left.

O'Neal's basket cut it to 106-89, but Marion responded with a baseline jumper, then Johnson made his fourth three-pointer of the game, and third of the half, and it was 111-91 with 7:24 remaining.

"They shot the ball very well, and we made too many mistakes," O'Neal said. "Every time we'd almost get back in it, we'd have a turnover and they'd go down and make a three."



Franics upset friend Mobley was traded

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Steve Francis became close with Cuttino Mobley during their six seasons as teammates, so the Orlando star was upset when the Magic shipped his friend to Sacramento.

"They shouldn't have traded him," Francis said after a 119-101 loss to the Boston Celtics on Monday night, adding that he was emotionally drained and distracted during the game.

Mobley was dealt shortly before tipoff with forward Michael Bradley to the Kings for guard Doug Christie. Mobley can become a free agent after the season, and Christie's defensive skills should help a team that has allowed the most points per game in the NBA.

The Kings gave up Christie, their best defender and a team leader, to add another scorer to their lineup. Mobley averaged 16 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.8 assists in 23 games with the Magic, who acquired him from Houston along with Francis last summer in the seven-player trade involving Tracy McGrady.

But Francis took the departure of his backcourt partner hard.

said. "Playing with a guy, living with a guy, just knowing that every day when I wake up that's something I can count on, that I'm going to be in practice or in a game with Cuttino.

"Him not being here is going to be tough for me. I don't know what I'm going to wake up for."

The Houston Rockets drafted Mobley in the second round in 1998 out of Rhode Island, then got Francis in a trade after Vancouver took him in the first round in 1999 out of Maryland. They came to Orlando with Kelvin Cato in the McGrady deal.

The trade helped the Magic,

who are 18-15. Last season, they didn't earn their 18th win until their 64th game.

SPORTS



Nets get bad news on Jefferson. then play poorly in loss to Pistons, Page 30

Suns in different league



Oklahoma State's defense helps coach Sutton earn 767th victory Page 25



Green among players finally

ioining new team



Falcons' front four at the center of turnaround

Page 29

Phoenix Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, right, slaps the ball out of the grasp of Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, left, in the third quarter Tuesday in Phoenix. Both players lead their respective teams with 34 points as the Suns defeated the Heat 122-107.

West's best team coasts past East-leading Heat

BY BOR BAIIM

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The ever-energized Phoenix Suns made the best in the East look slow and overmatched - just like they've done to almost every opponent so far in a remarkable season

Amare Stoudemire scored 34 points, and the Suns won their seventh straight 122-107 over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night in what turned out to be a mismatch of the teams with the best records in the West and East.

All five Suns starters hit double figures in the first half - and Phoenix improved to 31-4, the sixth-best start for a team with four losses in league history. Four of the five teams ahead of the Suns went on to win the NBA

Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said he knew what the Suns would do, but he couldn't stop them from doing it.

"We got absolutely dominated from the get-go, he said. "Look, that's a great team. I'm a little humbled by the fact that we could not come up with any kind of plan to stop them from a coaching standpoint.

West if hest

The Miami Heat have the best record in the NBA's Eastern Conference at 27-10, but they have a 7-8 record against teams from the Western Conference and just one victory against the top six teams from the West. Here's the results of

MIAMI. those games: Nov. 11 – lost to Dallas, 113-93 Nov. 12 – lost at San Antonio, 39-84 Nov. 16 – lost at Minnesota, 108-97 Dec. 23 – won at Sacramento, 109-107 Jan. 3 – lost to Seattle, 198-96 Jan. 19 – lost at Seattle, 108-98 Jan. 11 – lost at Phoenix, 122-107

Shawn Marion added 26 points and 11 rebounds, Steve Nash 16 points and 16 assists and Joe Johnson 24 points and nine rebounds

for the Suns, who have won 18 of 19 "Just right now it's fitting all together," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said. "He [Nash] makes it look easy, and the other guys make it look easy. They play off each other. This is probably our best stretch we've had all

The fleet-footed Suns ran out to a 17-point SEE SUNS ON PAGE 31

lead in the first quarter, never let Miami closer than 10 and topped 120 points for the second game in a row and seventh time this sea-

son "I don't know that I've seen a quicker team in my 10 years in the league," Van Gundy said. "They've got great athletes at every posi-tion."

"They're a very unselfish team, Eddie Jones said. "And they push it right at

you, right down your throat."

Despite his team's eye-popping record, D'Antoni won't call the Suns the best team in

the NBA 'You know, San Antonio's good," he said. "They only beat us by 20 points, so it's kind of hard for me to say we're better than they are. We're good. We're playing real well, and we're going to get better."

Shaquille O'Neal had 34 points and 11 rebounds, and Dwyane Wade added 23 points. but the Heat — beaten at Seattle on Sunday lost two in a row for only the second time this season. The first was early November, when Dallas and San Antonio beat Miami in back-to-back games Nov. 11-12.